**CSC 425 Deliverable 2: User Research and Problem Definition Submission**

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**Target User Group**

**Language Learners of any Age**

Especially those who are learning languages that are not closely related to languages they already know or have limited access to native speakers.

**Problem Description**

When learning a new language, remembering vocabulary in isolation can be very difficult. This problem is compounded by the fact that direct translation between languages that are not closely related can be difficult and misleading.

**Evidence of the Problem**

* “So at my university, I’ve noticed that a lot of exchange students usually just stick to the exchange students community and socialise among themselves, while the full-time students (regardless of whether domestic or international students) would hang out together.” -melissa\_april (random Reddit User). (This was also the case for me when I did my study abroad. I found it quite difficult to make friends with locals because of the language barrier).
* A study 2013 found that teaching vocabulary in a foreign language through context is highly effective for long-term vocabulary retention compared to other vocabulary memorization methods.

**“How Might We” Statement**

How might we improve vocabulary memorization and acquisition to further language education?

**User Persona**

**Name:** Jose Perez

**Age:** 23

**Occupation:** Construction worker

**Location:** Mayfield, KY

**Goals:** Trying to improve his English to better communicate with co-workers.

**Frustrations:** Jose is trying to learn new vocabulary words but finds it difficult to remember them all and often gets confused when meanings do not line up perfectly with his native language.

**Technology Comfort Level:** Medium (has a personal computer and uses smartphone regularly)

**Ethical Lens Applied**

**Principle: Improvement of Language Education**

* **Application:** This issue negatively affects language learners all around the globe. Difficulties in language learning can make it more difficult to find employment, make social connections or even communicate with family members.
* **Stakeholders Impacted:** Learners of second languages.
* **Professional Standard:** Aligns with ACM Code of Ethics 1.1: “Contribute to society and to human well-being, acknowledging that all people are stakeholders in computing.”

**Sources**

* <https://european-science.com/jaelt/article/view/210/pdf> (Science journal discussing the effectiveness of context-based vocabulary retention)
* <https://www.reddit.com/r/exchangestudents/comments/1hej7x6/why_do_many_exchange_students_tend_to_stick_to/> (Reddit discussion about exchange students sticking together)