# Module 7: Literacy Practices

## Introduction

In our society, the ability to read and write is a basic necessity. As we move into the “digital age,” literacy is rapidly becoming indispensible to our functioning as members of society. However, **literacy**, like all linguistic phenomena, is not a neutral activity nor simply a means to an end, but is socially charged. This week, we will learn about how linguistic anthropologists study literacy as a socially situated practice. In our reading, we will consider **love letter writing in Nepal**, **instant messaging**, and **preschool literacy** as ethnographic examples of research conducted by linguistic anthropologists on literacy.

## Objectives

At the end of this module, you will be able to:

* Summarize the ways in which the study of literacy has been approach.
* Explain the difference between a **literacy event** and **literacy practices**.
* Apply the concepts learned to specific ethnographic examples in the textbook and supplementary readings.

## Time Management

This course is designed to maximize benefits gained from our weekly f2f meeting. In order for our class meeting to enhance and further deepen your understanding of course materials and help you achieve our module objectives, I suggest you manage your time wisely. An efficient example of how you can best utilize your time for this course is as follows:

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| --- | --- |
| **Day** | **Suggested Action** |
| Monday | Read assigned reading and module content |
| Tuesday | Finish assigned reading and module content |
| Wednesday | Original post due in the weekly graded discussion |
| Thursday | F2F Meeting |
| Friday | Response to another’s original post due by midnight tonight |

## Assigned Reading

This week, you will complete the following readings. Please do the reading as you complete the module content. You must have the required reading done prior to our f2f class meeting on Thursday.

* Ahearn, Laura. 2012. *Living Language.* Chapter 7.
* Baquedano-López, Patricia. 2004. “Literacy practices across learning contexts.” You can download the pdf in the module.
* Baron, Naomi. 2005. [“Instant Messaging and the Future of Language.”](http://cacm.acm.org/magazines/2005/7/6185-instant-messaging-and-the-future-of-language/pdf?dl=no)