

IDT 610 Fall 2021

Discussion questions for third synchronous meeting on 9/7/21

TLD Chapter 2

What's the difference between *synchronous* and *asynchronous* distance education? - In synchronous learning, the learners and instructors are in the "same" place at the same time. Compared to asynchronous learners and educators who are in different places at different times.

In defining distance education, Simonson describes four components. List them, and explain the meaning of each:

Institutional based- not self-taught but educated through an institution (i.e. University)

Separation of Teachers and Student- separation not just in geographically but also in time

Interactive Telecommunications- connecting each other and the teacher

Sharing of Data Voice & Video- in any learning situation is like a community. Sharing information and details relating to learning

Simonson mentions the emergence of "open learning" as a possible different (from "distance education") approach to education. How do the two differ? Which of the two is closer to John Seely Brown's "learning ecology"? Why? - Distance learning provides learning opportunities using mass produced coursework to the mass market. Compared to Open Learning, it emphasizes current needs and markets available by recognizing local requirements and differences instead of delivering an established curriculum.

Distance education has less of a theoretical basis than more traditional forms of education. Why might a firm basis in theory benefit from distance education? - Would give a touchstone with which educators could make decisions.

Michael Moore writes about the theory of **transactional distance**. As part of this theory, he classifies learner autonomy by using three basic questions. List them, and explain the implications of each:

Is the selection of learning objectives in the program the responsibility of the learner or of the teacher? - autonomy of objectives

Is the selection and use of resource people, of bodies and other media, the decision of the teacher or the learning? - autonomy in methods of study

Are the decisions about the method of evaluation and criteria to be made by the learner or the teacher? - autonomy in evaluation

Compare and contrast: John Seely Brown's vision of an ecology of learning, and Otto Peter's view of industrialized distance education. - Education designed to be mass produced and consumed by the mainstream, compared to a targeted learning approach.

What is Borje Holmberg (guided didactic conversations) most known for emphasizing? - Had an explanatory value in relating teaching effectiveness to impacted feelings of belonging and cooperation as well as the actual exchange of questions, answers and arguments in mediated communication.

What's the difference between pedagogy and andragogy? - Andragogy deals with framework for distance learning for adults. Compared with pedagogy being typical school age learners.

Compare and contrast the implications for distance education of a *Fordist* strategy, a *neo-Fordist* strategy, and a *post-Fordist* strategy.

Fordist- fully centralized, single mode national distance education provider gaining greater economies of scale by offering courses to mass markets.

Neo-Fordist- allows for much more flexibility and diversity by combining low and high volume of products and process innovation.

Post-Ford- decentralized and retain integration between study models.

Where Good Ideas Come From

Why does Johnson state that a good idea is a *network*? -It allows for the creation of innovative ideas.

What attributes of a network predispose it to new ideas? - The sheer size of what can be conceptualized with respect to the network.

Why does carbon play such a huge role in life on our planet? - Because the Carbon Atom itself is crucial in connecting to the other 6 atoms that make up 99% of what all life is made up of.

Why does Johnson choose the metaphor of a **liquid** network, as opposed to a solid or gaseous one? - It creates more opportunities to study the adjacent possible in a liquid environment. Rather than in a gas environment where chaos reigns, or a solid environment where change isn't possible.

If you live in a high-density liquid network, where do you live? - Within Carbon based life

Kevin Dunbar studied the origins of new ideas in molecular biology. Where did he find that most of the new ideas occurred? Explain the relationship between this finding and John Seely Brown's communities of practice. - Rather than in isolated labs the research showed that the best ideas came during meetings where dozens of researchers are connected and discussing the latest work.

Preparing for the Digital University

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Have MOOCs have proven to be a direct challenge to higher education itself, as opposed to simply an additional learning opportunity? No, they have been an addition to learning opportunities.

What is a Creative Commons license?

The authors characterize three generations of distance education. Describe each.

Correspondence Study - Paper based instruction utilizing postal service to submit documentation for grading

2nd Generation - made use of the new media, speed and availability of materials increased as well as learner, instructor communication.

Teleconferencing- With the latest technology available, able to meet, discuss, learn and exchange ideas on the fly. Being able to share documents and ideas within seconds.

Blended learning represents an integration of traditional classroom instruction with distance delivery. What percentage of each type of instruction is generally considered appropriate to label a class as blended? -50% Mix to be blended

In surveying the research literature, the authors found that distance education can be at least as effective as traditional instruction across a range of content. How do distance education and traditional instruction compare on the dimension of student satisfaction? - In terms of this study it was found that student satisfaction was only slightly higher with traditional learning.

Siemens and co. presented a model of distance ed. Which of their factors are congruent with John Seely Brown's predictions regarding learning ecology? Content, Design, Support, Instruction

Critical Inquiry in a Text-Based Environment

Three types of presence are fundamental to the COI model. Name, describe, and give examples of each.

Social: Relating to emotion, communication and cohesion (i.e. Expression, Collaboration).

Cognitive: Relating to Exploration, Integration, resolving (i.e. Problem Solving, Brainstorming Ideas, Application of Ideas).

Teaching: Based around Instructional Management and building understanding (i.e. Defining Topics, Sharing Meaning).

Why is this model potentially valuable to the further development of distance education? - Provides a growing base of information and researchers on the topic of distance learning.