Multilingual Writers in Digital Space

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Positionality

- I am a multilingual ESL student, writer, and instructor

- I advocate for digital diversity and equity

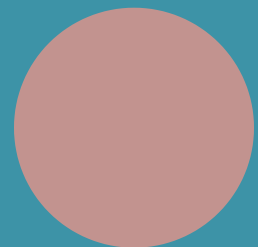- My research focuses on multilingual writers' digital stories

Presentation Materials
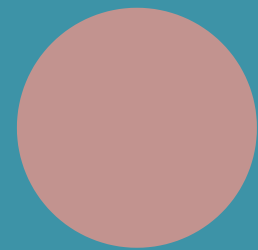
Alexandra Krasova

Key Themes

Multilingual Writers

As instructors, we need to encourage multilingual studetns to lean on their background experiences

Multilinguals on Wikipedia

Wikipedia as a tool for intercultural education

Digital Equity & Diversity

Providing equal access to information

Multilinguals

are people who use more than one language in their everyday lives

43% of population

Chinese, Spanish, French

21% in the USA

Spanish, Japanese, Korean, French

Multilingual Writing

01

"Writing is rhetorical negotiation for achieving social meaning & functions" (Canagarajah, 2006, p. 602)

02

Treating the first language and culture as a recourse not a problem (Canagarajah, 2006, p. 602)

03

"Texts are representational" (Canagarajah, 2006, p. 602)

04

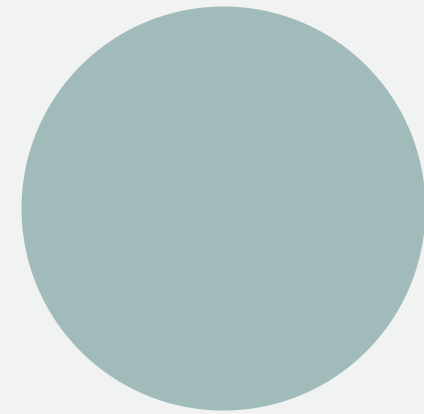Inclusive classroom communities (Laman and Van Sluys, 2008, p. 266)

Digital Space & Multiligual Writers

Construct digital identity

through social networking sites

Enhance literacy practices

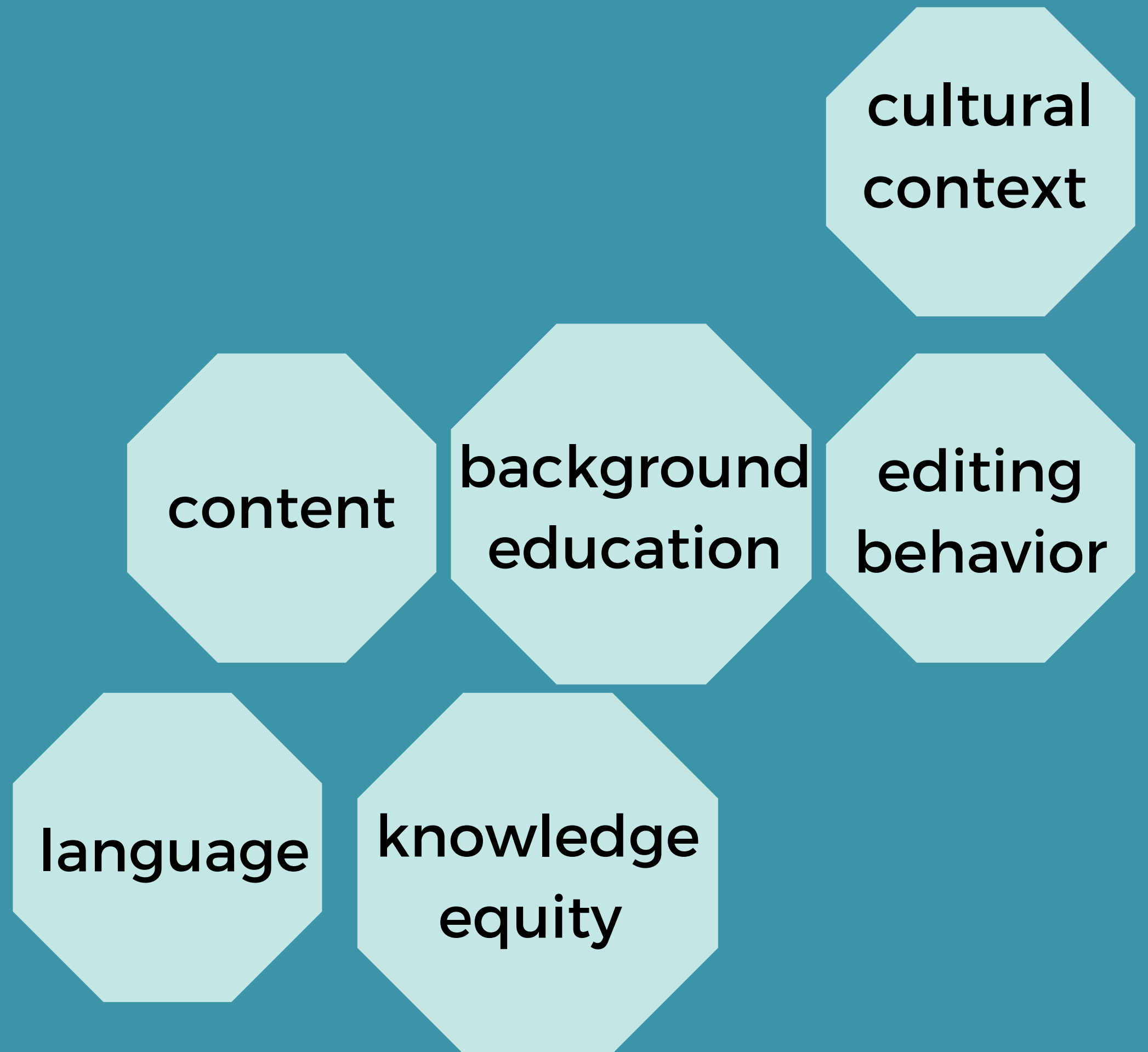by utilizing new technologies and digital tools; new approaches
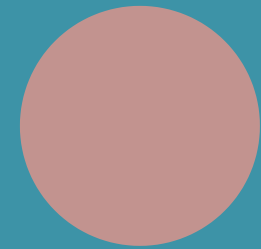
Highlight students' voice

personalizing learning
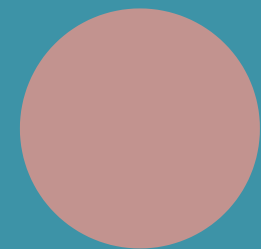
Multilinguals on Wikipedia

cultural context

content

background education

editing behavior

language

knowledge equity
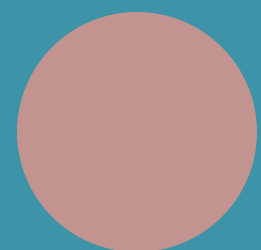
Digital Equity & Inclusion

access to hardware & connectivity

addressing connectivity issues: digitally excluded
peoples within and across countries

digital & literacy skills

background education and access to knowledge

availability of technical & social support

access to educators skilled in the use of information
and communication technologies

Scholars

Multilingual Writers

Canagarajah, S.

Digital Equity

Resta, P.

Laferrière, T.

Multilingual Wikipedia

Vrandečić, D.

Common Myths

- if you don't learn a language before a certain age, you'll never be able to

- If you aren't equally fluent in all languages, you aren't truly multilingual

- Being exposed to multiple languages may cause language disorder

Multilinguals in Digital Space

- foster intercultural understanding & education

- bridge both the digital and cultural divides

- enlarge intercultural connections & communications

Digital Equity

References

- Bloch, J. (2021). *Creating digital literacy spaces for multilingual writers*, Bristol, Multilingual Matters

- Canagarajah, S. (2006). Toward a writing pedagogy of shuttling between languages: Learning from multilingual writers. *College English,* 68(6), Cross-Language Relations in Composition (Jul., 2006), 589-604. https://doi.org/10.2307/25472177

- Laman, T., & Van Sluys, K. (2008). Being and Becoming: Multilingual Writers' Practices. Language Arts 85(4), Writing and Community, pp. 265-274

- Resta, P., & Laferrière, T. (2015). Digital equity and intercultural education. *Education and Information Technologies,* 20, 743–756. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10639-015-9419-z