

8-9-2010

# L2 Cultural Negotiation and Visual Literacy: A Multilingual Perspective

Alexander Lapidus

*Indiana University of Pennsylvania*

Follow this and additional works at: <http://knowledge.library.iup.edu/etd>

---

## Recommended Citation

Lapidus, Alexander, "L2 Cultural Negotiation and Visual Literacy: A Multilingual Perspective" (2010). *Theses and Dissertations (All)*. 13.  
<http://knowledge.library.iup.edu/etd/13>

This Dissertation is brought to you for free and open access by Knowledge Repository @ IUP. It has been accepted for inclusion in Theses and Dissertations (All) by an authorized administrator of Knowledge Repository @ IUP. For more information, please contact [cclouser@iup.edu](mailto:cclouser@iup.edu), [sara.parme@iup.edu](mailto:sara.parme@iup.edu).

STUDENT HAS RESTRICTED ACCESS TO FULL TEXT OF THE DISSERTATION.

ONLY COVER PAGES AND ABSTRACT ARE AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME

L2 CULTURAL NEGOTIATION AND VISUAL LITERACY:  
A MULTILINGUAL PERSPECTIVE

A Dissertation

Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies and Research  
in Partial Fulfillment of the  
Requirements for the Degree  
Doctor of Philosophy

Alexander Lapidus

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

August 2010

© 2010 by Alexander Lapidus

All Rights Reserved

Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
The School of Graduate Studies and Research  
Department of English

We hereby approve the dissertation of

Alexander Lapidus

Candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

---

---

David I. Hanauer, Ph.D.  
Professor of English, Advisor

---

---

Gian S. Pagnucci, Ph.D.  
University Professor & Professor of English

---

---

Lisya Seloni, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of English

ACCEPTED

---

Timothy P. Mack, Ph.D.  
Dean  
The School of Graduate Studies and Research

---

Title: L2 Cultural Negotiation and Visual Literacy: A Multilingual Perspective

Author: Alexander Lapidus

Dissertation Chair: Dr. David I. Hanauer

Dissertation Committee Members: Dr. Gian S. Pagnucci  
Dr. Lisya Seloni

This dissertation examines L2 cultural negotiation and usage of sequential art to negotiate culture in order to formulate a theory of cultural negotiation that can be used in the field by second language learners. The aim is to understand how L2 students can negotiate culture through visual literacy materials. Bringing to light new theoretical work from multilingual sources, including a joint position derived from the non-Western work of Vygotsky, Gromov, and Brudny, this dissertation illuminates the process of cultural negotiation as subjective, affective, and reliant on imagination and stress for personal growth and applies this theoretical basis to using comics for negotiating an L2 culture. This dissertation thereby re-examines the Vygotskian concept of meaning-making in the ZPD and identifies sequential art as a unique medium that can enable cultural negotiation in a diverse and increasingly globalized society. This dissertation challenges the position that sequential art is not a legitimate academic medium and explores the mechanism employed by learners reading comics to make meaning. In the process, it establishes multilingual, interdisciplinary research as a valuable form of research, draws upon the concept of multiliteracies to explore the multimodal nature of meaning making, and suggests a new epistemological approach to pedagogy with a set of practical recommendations within the broader orientation toward intercultural understanding.