# Empowering Students' Social Practices by exploring four Reading Strategies Through Blogs





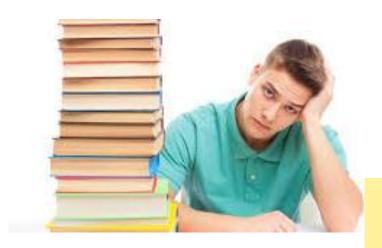
## **EXPOSITORES**



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## INTRODUCCIÓN





Tacit Readers/Learners



Strategic Readers/Learners

Aware
Readers/Learners

Reflective Readers/Learners



#### **Research Question**

To what extent does the use of reading strategies through blogs support students' construction of awareness regarding social practices?

## **Subquestions**

What strategies emerge when students are engaged in reading activities through blogs to construct their awareness of social practices?

What participants' contributions emerged as a result of using reading as social practice through blogs?

## **OBJETIVO DEL ESTUDIO**

#### General

- To examine EFL students' social practices with the use of reading strategies through blogs.

#### **Specific**

- To explore students' strategies in reading activities through blogs regarding social practices.
- To analyze the emerging students' contributions as a result of using reading as social practice through blogs

#### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

#### **Reading strategies**

Alexander, Graham and Harris (1998) "A reader who is strategic intends to use strategies to work towards a goal" (p. 366)

Brown (1994) "reading in an EFL context will best be developed in association with writing, listening and speaking activities"... (p, 284).

Chen (2008) "those mental processes that readers consciously choose to use in accomplishing reading tasks."

#### Research experiences

Tierney and Readence (2005) regarding the importance of reading comprehension as "the main goal for ESL and EFL students to gain an understanding of the world and themselves..." (p. 52).

Soleimani, Hajghani (2013) unfortunately students sometimes believe that the meaning of a text does not go beyond simple words in printable material or on a screen.

Alfassi (2004)"reading as a crucial skill in any language taking into account the use of strategies that help students read well".

#### Social practices

(Alderson, 2000; Bernhart, 2000) reading is also a social practice in the sense that the social context in which the reading practice is undertaken contributes to a reader's understanding of the text

Scarino and Liddicoat (2009)"We construct our messages according to our intentions, our constraints and possibilities, our roles and relationships. This is what we mean when we talk about language being social practice. It is the most powerful component of social process and practice at indivicollective and institutional levels" (p. 45dual,).

#### RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Baynhman (1995) "the activity of reading presupposes reading the social world and introduces the potential for critical, resistant readings, not simply accommodations to the givens of text" (p. 207)

Kiili, 2012). "social practices were evidenced in the construction of an argument graph that promoted students' collaborative online reading" (, p. 5).

Dzaldov (2012) the teacher created learning opportunities by transforming practices in the young population towards the connection between beliefs, identities and the multimodal and digital texts. (p.13)

#### Blogs

Gee (1996)
"students today
must acquire new
and multiple
literacies so they
may fully
participate in the
global
community"

(Kress, 2000), Those new literacies help learners to communicate and negotiate meaning among people of various cultural and linguistic backgrounds, interpret the multimodal texts forms brought by new media



Leiva (2009), one of the main reasons to use blogs in a language teaching context, is the way in which they are designed to encourage the participation of the contributors who can manage their time and the different tasks assigned without feeling pressure.

#### RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

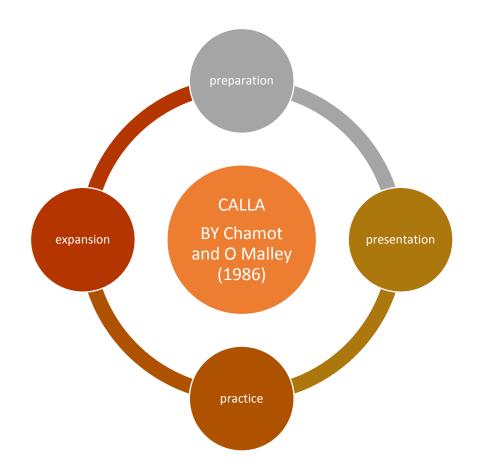
Gilbert (2014). Ss were able to explore their critical thinking by challenging the information they could find online through some questions stated by the researcher where they could confront the author's ideas with participants' beliefs and perceptions (p. 154 - 155).

Motteram (2013) Many teachers also now encourage their learners to blog, publishing their written work and projects online in ways that go beyond sharing their work with an audience apart from the teacher, and which help prepare learners in the use of new technologies (p. 51).

Aydan (2014 t) "this technological tool helped them to improve reflection and critical thinking skills. In addition, it permitted a feedback and error corrections process and, at the same time, allowed them to be compatible with the nature of the reading classes" (p.100).



#### Calla Model



Chamot and O Malley (1986)
"" The goals of CALLA are for students to
learn essential academic content and
language and to become independent and
self-regulated learners, through their
increasing command over a variety of
strategies for learning in school".

Making connections
Predicting
Visualize and Asking questions.

#### **RESEARCH DESIGN**

#### **CONTEXT**

- The International Languages Institute, Duitama branch.
- PARTICIPANTS
  - 10 young learners from English Level Two

#### RESEARCH APROACH

- Qualitative research .
  Cresswell (1994)
- Action research, Kemmis and McTaggart (1985, p.5)

#### DATA GATHERING

- VIDEO RECORDING, Freeman (1998)
- OPEN
  QUESTIONNNAIRE,
  Wallace (1998)
- STUDENTS ARTIFACTS, Hendricks (2009),

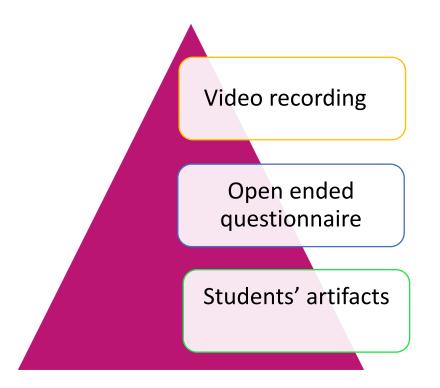
#### Pegagogial Intervention

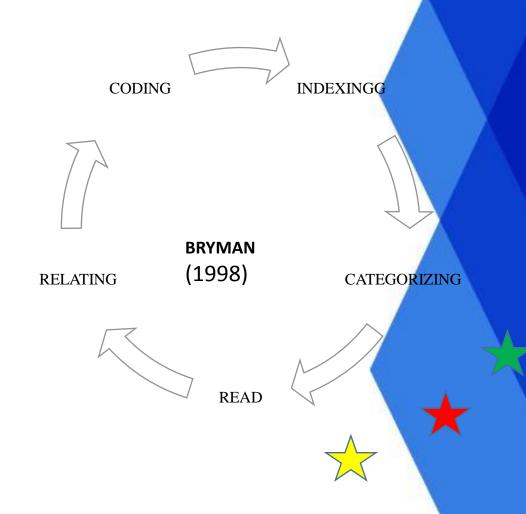
5 workshops

#### **ETHICS**

 This study shows with completely honesty the systematic process during the research. (Consent forms)

## Data Analysis





## RESULTADOS Y DISCUSIONES



Research Questions	Categories	Subcategories	General Objective	Instruments
To what extent does the use of reading strategies through blogs support students' construction of awareness regarding social practices?	Give a flicker to your mind: Students' reading exploration through blogging reforms their daily	<ul> <li>Interpreting worlds</li> <li>through reading and my</li> <li>own beliefs.</li> <li>Reading, guiding,</li> <li>writing and speaking</li> <li>towards skills</li> </ul>	To examine EFL students' social practices with the use of reading strategies through blogs.	Video recordings
Subquestions - What strategies emerge	social practices.	interrelationship	Specific objectives	
when students are engaged in reading activities through blogs to construct their	It appears that this is	Prior knowledge activation	To explore students' strategies in reading activities through	Students' artifacts
awareness of social practices?	real for you and me!	Connecting and unveiling real experiences.	blogs regarding social practices.	
- What participants' contributions emerged as a result of using reading as social practice through blogs?	What really matters to me!		To analyze the emerging students' contributions as a result of using reading as social practice through blogs	Open-ended questionnaire

#### Subquestions

- What strategies emerge when students are engaged in reading activities through blogs to construct their awareness of social practices?
- What participants' contributions emerged as a result of using reading as social practice through blogs?

#### Give a flicker to your mind: Students' reading exploration through blogging reforms their daily social practices

exploration and use of reading support reconstruct information the use words displayed in the messages

#### - First Subcategory.

use of reading strategies strategies permitted students to Interpreting worlds through reading and my own beliefs.

given in the different readings Explorer 3 .... "It is an interesting article what explains the feel of people I like students' construction of posted by the tutor and learners much" (SA. February 20<sup>th</sup> 2015. Explorer 3)

awareness regarding social in the blogs. They were able to Explorer 2 ... "interesting article, I not know that love had many effects on the health of people.and I believe that love should be pure, out of the heart" Explorer 2 ... " si me parecio muy chevere esos datos curiosos todo lo que dice ahi articles to understand different sobre el amor, como por ejemplo que puede ser un buen analgesico, o que las ideas; arguing, complementing personas que están en desamor pueden tener graves efectos de salud en el all of the information and the corazón, efectos sobre la salud. (SA. February 20<sup>th</sup> 2015. Explorer 2)

> Explorers 2 and 3 presented their own interpretations and beliefs in terms of an issue which is "love". In this part of the workshop students were asked to read some curious facts about love and then post some comments about them in their blogs. It is interesting how these two explorers expressed their beliefs in terms of the positive effects that love could have on their health and personal life.

#### **Second subcategory:**

#### Reading, guiding, writing and speaking towards skills interrelationship

To what extent does the use of reading strategies through blogs support students' construction of awareness regarding social practices?

#### Subquestions

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through supports this finding in stating that reading in an EFL context will best be developed in association with writing, listening and speaking activities and even if the aim is labeled "reading" the goals will be best achieved by capitalizing on the interrelationship of skills, especially the reading/writing connection (p, 284).

Explorer 3 ... "but entender el ingles Question 2: Ahora esta herramineta? Explorer 4... "el la comunicacion y lectura y escritura estudents

Explorer 2 ... "Ha sido una experiencia buena ya que en el blog uno puede leer y publicar acerca de los gustos propios en distintos temas mientras se maneja el vocabulario en ingles"

Explorer 3 ... "buena por diferentes metodos, se puede aprender, a entender el ingles y llama la atención ya que es un nuevo metodo" Question 2: Ahora que usted ha creado su propio blog que opina de esta herramineta?

Explorer 4... "el blog es una herramienta muy util en el ambito de la comunicación y el aprendizaje en este caso para fortalecer la lectura y escritura en ingles" (VR. February 25th 2015. Explorer 6)

Teacher: okay y entonces por que en el blog si escribes y das tu opinion en ingles?

Explorer 1 ... "aaaaaa porque ahi nadie me mira y me siento comodo .... Bueno lo que más o menos alcance a entender de la lectura fue que ellos dos eran muy buenos luchadores y eran famosos y algunos piensan que fueron los más grandes peleadores de la historia . Ellos pelearon en trs ocasiones de los cuales la primera fraizer fue el ganador y las otras dos las gano ali".

	Second General Category.  It appears that this is real for you and me!	<u>First subcategory:</u> Prior knowledge activation
Subquestions  - What strategies emerge when students are engaged in reading activities through blogs to construct their awareness of social practices?	It has been found that reading is also a social practice in the sense that the social context in which the reading practice is undertaken contributes to a reader's understanding of the text (Alderson, 2000; Bernhart, 2000).	Explorer 1 "Because ehhh i think ehhh i think Alii s the most grandthe most grand". Teacher: "the best fighter" Explorer 1 "fighter fighterthe best fighter of the history of Boxeo". Teacher: okay I see !!! and what about Fraizer Explorer 1 "no espera teacher And AliAli wasAli fue un gran líder and he defended the derechos? The right of black people". Explorer 1 "okay incluso incluso a él lo reclutaron cuando hubo la querra en Vietnam y el dijo que no iba y se negó a ser reclutado entonces lo despojaron de sus títulos , incluso el no se llamaba Mohamed Ali, sino que se llamaba era mmmmm ayyyyy!!!! Mmm no recuerdo bien el nombre mmmmm el se cambió de nombre y se cambió al islam y en islam él se llamabaMohamed Ali". (VR. April 15th 2015. Explorer 1)  activating knowledge and connecting their thoughts constituted a great opportunity during which readers felt free and comfortable to express and talk about issues they were interested in

#### **Second subcategory: Research Questions** Connecting and unveiling real experiences. Bernhart (2000), in her socio-cognitive model, Explorer 1 ... "in my case I can't concentrate if is many music or ruido" (VR. April 15<sup>th</sup> 2015. stated that the reading process is cognitive. Explorer 1) Lending support to this view confirmed that Explorer 10 ... "osea q en casa de arriero asadon de palo? Porq tu eres musico nooo?". (VR. reading should be promoted by means of new Frebruary 25<sup>th</sup> 2015. Explorer 10) alternatives and activities with meaningful Explorer 1 ... "pero precisamente porque me gusta tanto la musica es que le presto mas atencion a strategies to empower learners in the use of las melodias, las notas las letras y el ritmo y no a mis traajaos de la u" (VR. Frebruary 25<sup>th</sup> 2015. language in order to construct ideas, express Explorer 1) feelings, make connections, share thoughts and How many hours a day do you need to listen to music? Subquestions reveal perceptions of life. In this case the Explorer 4 ... Maximum one hour participants expressed relevant points of view in Explorer 8 .... I need music for everything. (VR. Frebruary 25<sup>th</sup> 2015. Explorer 8) terms of their experiences and real connections. What strategies emerge Explorer 1 ... "Uy si sobre todo los profesores de niños ahi uno desgasta la vos y los oidos todo major dicho". (VR. Frebruary 25<sup>th</sup> 2015. Explorer 1) when students are engaged Explorer 9 "I like animals, my favorite animals are dogs I have one dog and this is real I in reading activities through can feel all f this every day" (VR. Frebruary 25<sup>th</sup> 2015. Explorer 9) blogs to construct their awareness of social EFL participants are able to transform reading into real practice towards the use of language in a reflective way through the interpretation of topics that have an impact on their daily experiences practices?

	Categories		
	Third general category  What really matters to me!	Tutor Diego ,why did you select this reading? Explorer 7 because my like sports and it is interesting see what players have more money than Barcelona, but for I Barcelona playmajor what real Madrid. (VR. March24th 2015. Explorer 7) Explorer 4 "teacher, really I am passionate about trucks, and since childhood I liked this kind of model and brand AUDI Q7, my dream is to someday have this car	
Subquestions	One of the valuable points obtained in the examples gathered was the participation of		
- What participants'  contributions emerged as a  result of using reading as	students in comparing and connecting the topics they liked to read with their real life and their daily experiences, not only as students but also as people with many	Explorer 1 "Es chevere porque uno puede publicar lo que le gusta"	
social practice through blogs?	feelings and interests and people full of knowledge about aspects they do not usually encounter in an academic context.	They <u>predicted</u> , through headlines, titles, images and sentences. It was different and easier for participants to interpret written codes and messages by means of visualizing the information given in the text and drawing it. It was worth asking and answering questions that allow students to reflect and be aware of their perceptions of stereotypes.	

### **CONCLUSIONES**

- ❖ The background and experiences of participants were really essential to support their knowledge and connect it to the readings published and explored by the tutor or their classmates in the blogs.
- ❖ It was really interesting to appreciate that reading articles or texts that really matter to students helped not only to increase their active participation in the interpretation of information, but also the socialization of opinions and experiences when making sense of words and the intention of the author.
- \* Exploring EFL students' reading strategies not only allows one to connect experiences, but also creates a sense of critical and reflective thinking as to the information that makes some impact on readers' lives and contributes to transforming social practices.
- ❖ The exploration and use of making connections as reading strategy, permitted students to reconstruct the information given in the different articles posted by the tutor and learners in the blogs.

- ❖ The use and the exploration of the reading strategies in the blogs on one hand allowed students to feel free about giving their opinions without being afraid of speaking in English or being judged when participating, and on the other hand allowed for the association between reading and other skills such as writing and speaking during the classroom discussion about the process and experiences of using blogs as a new alternative.
- ❖ Inescapably, the exploration of EFL students' reading strategies through the use of blogs reveals beliefs, experiences, and personal points of view that lead students to challenge and make sense of their attitudes, situations and progress in their daily practices.
- ❖Reading through blogs encourages students to socialize, interact and exchange knowledge in the classroom or other teaching/learning context. This excellent tool also raises awareness and invites learners to become the center of the learning process by means of promoting communication and strengthening the strategies that teachers and learners use in and out of the classroom.

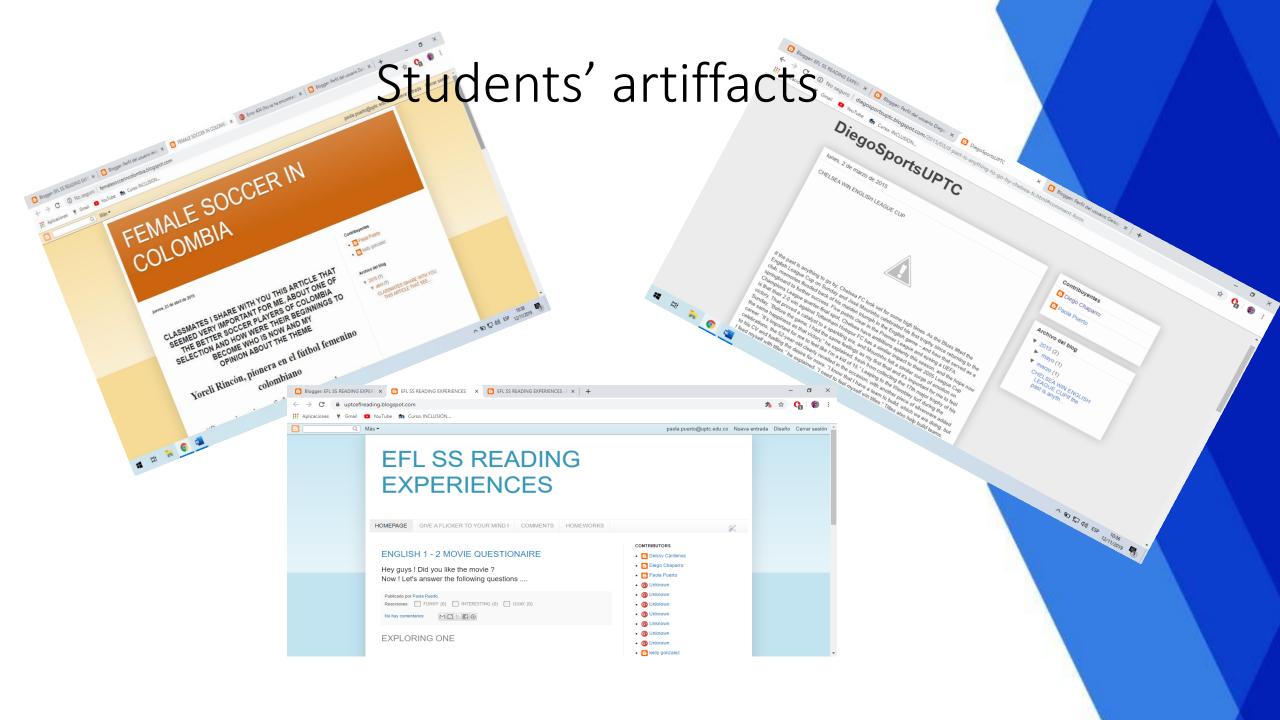
## Pedagogical Practice Implications and Further Research

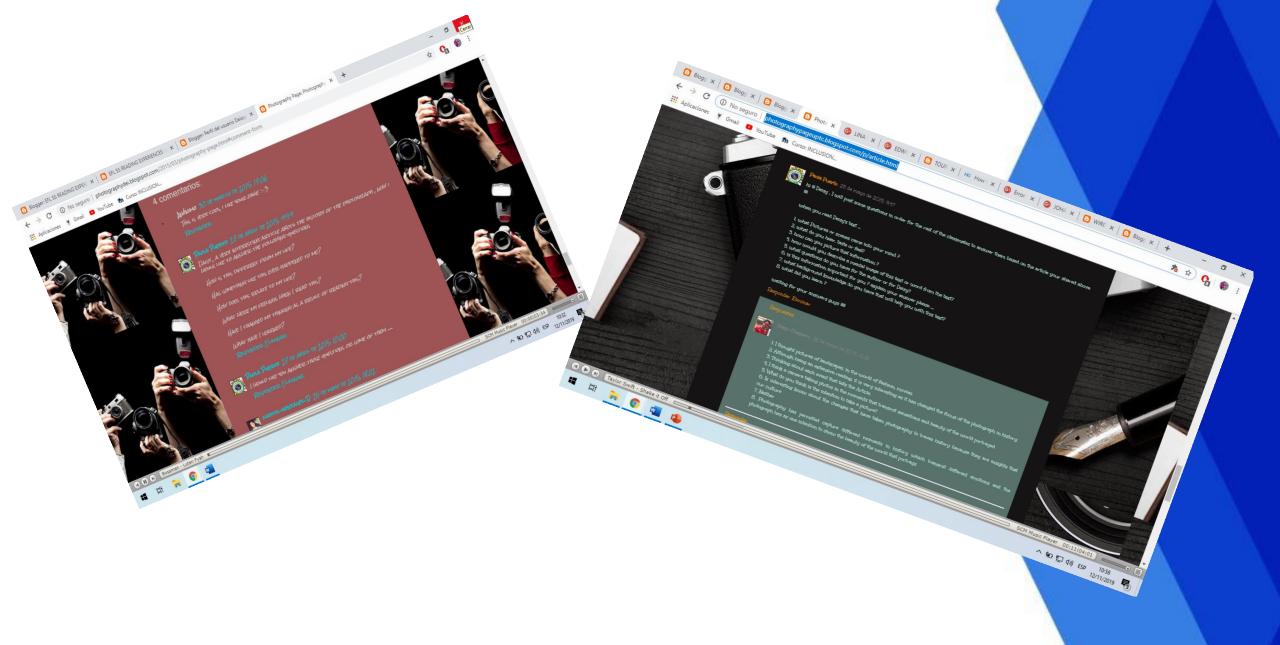
- There are strong possibilities of using and exploring the use of blogs not only with students from undergraduate programs but also with students from extension courses in which English can be exposed through discussion of their favorite topics or any other resource, and at the same time going beyond the standard classroom practices by taking advantage of technology that works very well in an external environment.
- The education field should integrate new technologies, not only in university contexts, but also at schools, which would allow the very young population to benefit with the use of this Web 2.0 tool, first of all taking care to provide sufficient training to teachers and students to allow for meaningful learning.
- As the use of technology in teaching English language contexts has increased, an area for future research could be to seek an answer to what can be unveiled from face-to-face sessions and the use of other new technologies outside the classroom in order to go beyond learning facts and want to get into grayer, more challenging topics.

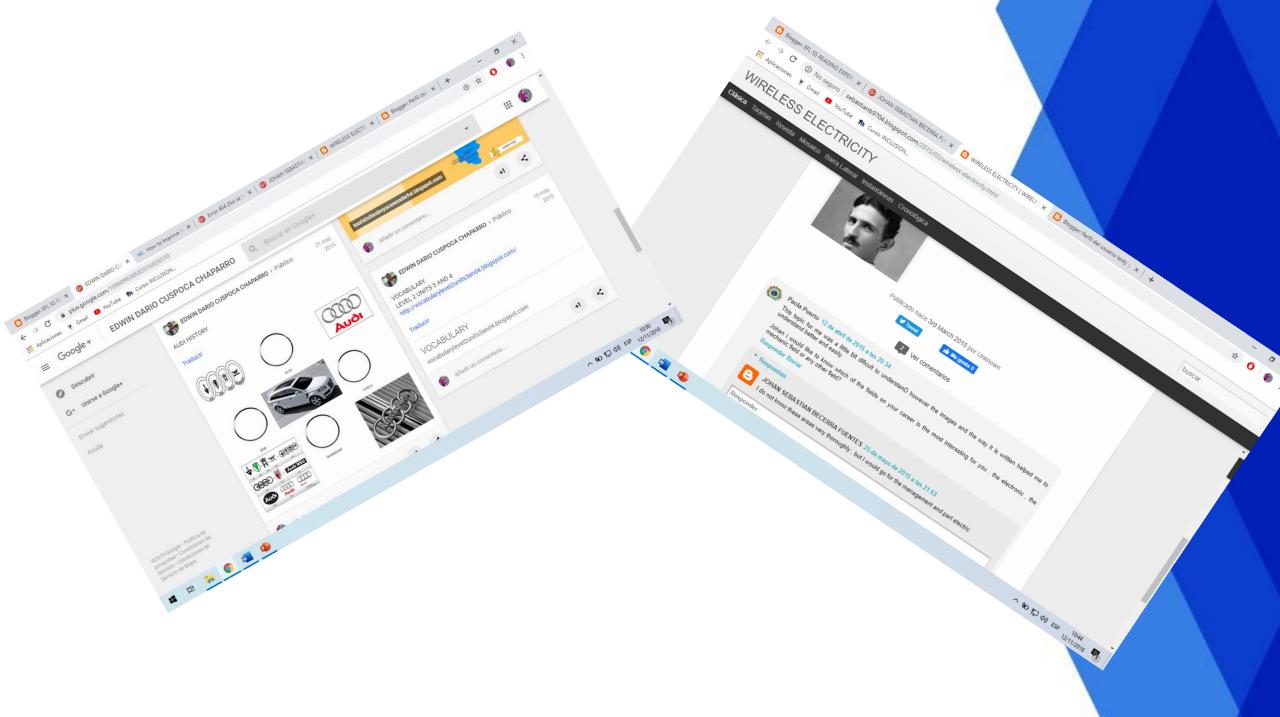
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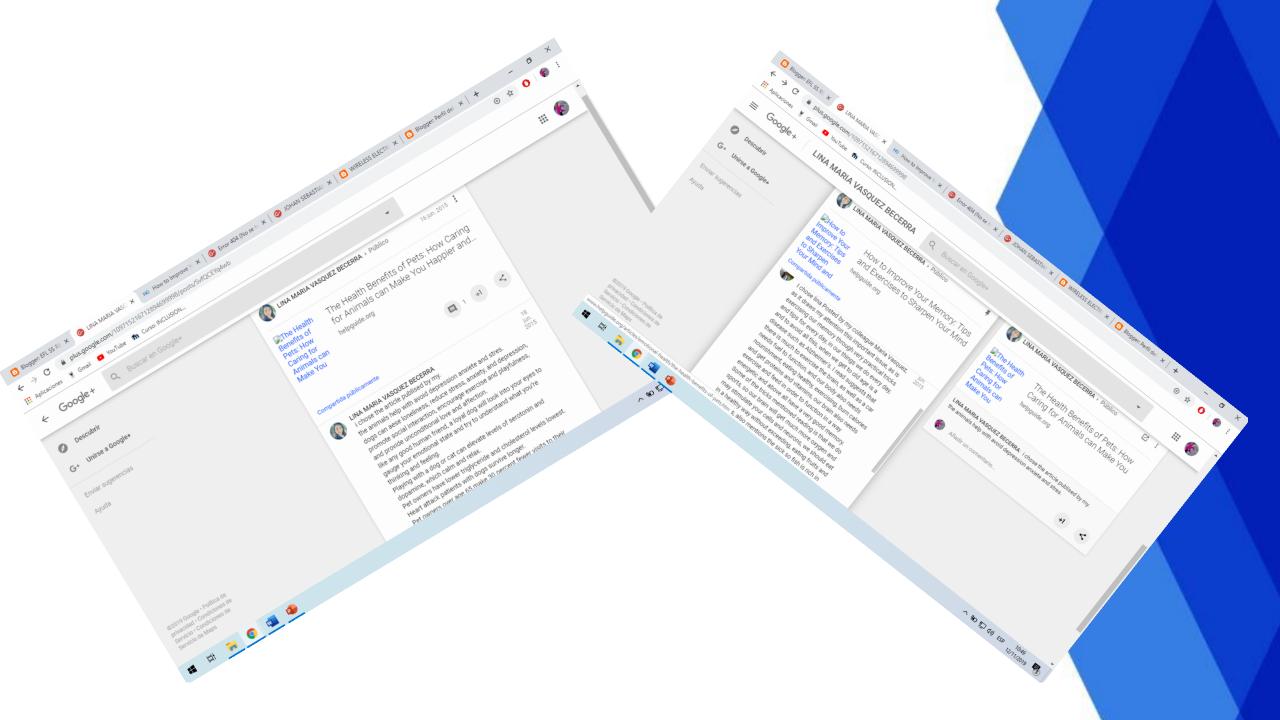
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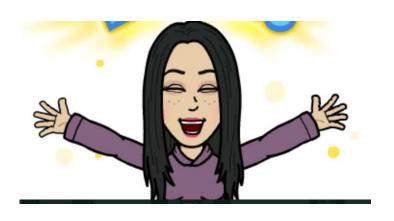






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