

Situated Learning

Lave, J. and Wenger, E. (1991). *Situated learning: Legitimate peripheral participation*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Chapter 1: Legitimate Peripheral Participation

Here are my own rather simplistic explanations of some central terms or constructs; of course, these are not exhaustive definitions but only stepping-stones for advancing the discussion.

- ◆ “Community” refers to an ongoing union of people with shared values.
- ◆ “Community of practice” refers to a community concerned with the practical aspects of a shared purpose.
- ◆ “Participation” refers to engagement in activity within the community.
- ◆ “Peripheral” refers to the relative inexperience of fledgling community members.
- ◆ “Legitimacy” refers to the relevance and even necessity of peripheral participation.

The constructs of community of practice and legitimate peripheral participation are useful as analytical viewpoints (pp. 31, 35, 39).

Learning is situated in specific circumstances through concrete activity and social engagement (p. 31).

Learning is essentially identity development, and in the context of communities of practice, this means developing “identities of mastery” (p. 41) or “identities of participation” (p. 43).

Chapter 2: Practice, Person, Social World

The theoretical constructs of communities of practice and legitimate peripheral participation begin with an understanding of knowledge as socially mediated (p. 51).

Participation may be considered as operating in the dialectical tension between the individual and the other members of the community, as well as its processes and resources (p. 51).

Participation exists in action and inter-relation; it may be conceived most appropriately not as an isolated exchange but as a trajectory (p. 54).

Chapter 3: Midwives, Tailors, Quartermasters, Butchers, Nondrinking Alcoholics

The movement of newcomers from peripheral to full participation is facilitated by a process akin to apprenticeship (pp. 62–63).

Apprenticeship “implies the replacement of old-timers” (p. 57).