

INTERCAMBIO CULTURAL COMO HERRAMIENTA DE APRENDIZAJE DEL
INGLÉS COMO SEGUNDO IDIOMA A TRAVÉS DE LA INMERSIÓN TOTAL EN LA
CULTURA DE ESTADOS UNIDOS CASO WELLINGTON FL, USA.

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CÓDIGOS: 201110788

MODALIDAD TRABAJO DE GRADO: PASANTÍA EN EL EXTERIOR, PRÁCTICA
EMPRESARIAL

DIRECTOR: GUILLERMO IGNACIO CAPERA

DOC. E.A.T.H.

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2016

Nota de Aceptación

Firma del presidente del jurado

Firma del jurado

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Duitama _____

DEDICATION

To God for being my guide on the road and giving me the best opportunities to succeed, enlightening me and giving me wisdom when I needed it most. To my family for every sacrifice they made to make me the person that I am, for all the support they gave me and the motivation to better myself every day in my professional career. Thanks also to all my friends for being part of this life project.

Leidy Rocio Mesa Garavito

GRATEFULNESS

To God for giving me the best parents, the best friends and the best people during my personal and professional development; for allowing me to experience this cultural exchange and live this experience that has changed my life and ways of thinking where I got to know a new culture and learn a new language.

To my family for the support they gave me during the process, for your motivating words to move past any obstacle that presented itself, and for shaping me as a good person.

To my thesis director Professor Guillermo Ignacio Capera for all his dedication and care to move my work forward, for your time, guidance, and willingness to help every time I needed it.

To my host family for their understanding, help, and support during the implementation of this project.

To my friends who helped and motivated me to go ahead when I need it and for their unconditional friendship.

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INTRODUCTION

In a world of constant changes and the current globalization, a second language is essential for the development of competitive and qualified professionals who can adequately perform in the workplace. Furthermore, the English language is a fundamental tool for the interaction between most countries. Therefore, cultural exchange has become a trend that enables the development of young people that need to know a second language to enter the labour market with a solid and competitive basis.

A cultural exchange as an extension of studies abroad provides tools that facilitate a lifestyle and facilitate the learning of a new language. For that reason, cultural exchange is an experience of knowledge, which is brought about from own experiences, on-location and that allows greater interaction with the costumes of a nation.

In much of Latin America, language is a considerable gap in professional development, and considering from a local perspective that field of tourism and hotel management revolves around countries and close communication of multiple cultures and dialects, and even more so in Colombia, a country that is emerging with touristic activity because of its biodiversity, it is important to note the lack of people who master a second language, a tool for economic development within the area of tourism.

This proposal aims to promote interaction with another culture and the total immersion in it by means of cultural exchanges as part of the academic training necessary to train qualified professionals that are able to work in different areas of the tourism and management areas in a

new, globalized world. It should be noted that living in another culture is one of the best ways to learn a language since the interaction with natives, allows you to easily assimilate knowledge.

Lastly, exchanges in addition to learning, create a new vision of tourism within one's native country, from experiencing another country, one can experience a broader and more futuristic perspective of the interworkings of tourism activity, management systems, promotion and development; even more so in the case of United States, one of the world's powers.

This is how the exchange goes hand in hand with the learning of a new language quicker and professional learning through experiences and coexistence with another culture; contributing to the person's development and professional growth.

CHAPTER 1

CULTURAL EXCHANGE AS A STRATEGY FOR LEARNING

1. STRATEGIES FOR LEARNING A LANGUAGE

1.1. THE STRATEGY OF LEARNING IN THE CLASSROOM

There are different strategies for learning a language. The strategy of learning in the classroom is a major and classical learning strategy. The base of this strategy is by teaching grammar and reading comprehension, it also helps to improve speaking and listening skills by watching videos and listening to audio books.

This strategy has been used for a long time, and it is the basic teaching model used by schools. This strategy makes use of books, videos, audio, and other media that allow you to learn a new language.

1.2. CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

Another strategy to acquire a language is for a person to join an organization that facilitates a trip to a native country. An example of this kind of strategy is cultural exchange programs, in this model one lives with a family for a period of time and takes part in the family's daily life.

The person enjoys benefits as if they were a member of the family. This is called total immersion.

Total immersion is one of the best techniques, as it allows a new language learner an opportunity to improve English skills. This process of learning a new language is similar to rapid acceleration. The person will meet new people and engage in conversations. Mistakes are common but a good support team and individuals who are patient and willing to help will expedite this process.

In addition, taking classes in the country of origin is important so that when the individual arrives in the new environment, the person already has background knowledge of the language. This person may have already researched the culture and customs to make the transition a smooth one. Schooling is a great idea because there is an advancement of knowledge through practice and repetition. This will be the background and foundation for new language acquisition. Additionally, there may be opportunities for internships and work experience.

This background information can be helpful during new language acquisition because every language can be difficult to learn due to such things as accents, contractions of certain words, and proper use of words within the contexts.

Each of these modes go hand in hand; this means that if you can acquire both, it would be the perfect combination for a person to have integral learning, achieving bilingualism. Allowing understanding when engaging in dialogue with others.

2. TOTAL IMMERSION

Cultural exchanges are one of the best mechanisms for learning a new language. This allows a better understanding of it, through practice in the natural environment, enabling faster learning. The person lives in a culture, in an English-speaking country, allowing intellectual development at a faster pace. Learning becomes more fluid and somewhat easier. The need for communication forces a person to speak in order to express feelings, needs and views; placing their full cognitive capacity in learning English.

Therefore, cultural exchanges are ways to learn the language. With experience, a capacity to adapt to a new language is simpler. It has been shown that one of the new trends in education is immersion, through the practice and experience it provides. The brain creates a new chip that will record and learn new things such as language, customs, intonations and many more. This practice becomes routine, something that a person is living daily, and this makes the brain unconsciously perform daily activities.

The brain assimilates new culture and new language in order to be able to perform daily routines necessary for a person to socialize and survive with others. It is impossible to isolate one from learning new things. The method alone is responsible for teaching and the brain does absorb this information.

One of the best ways to learn is to experience and practice in the field. The theory cannot develop in the same way as the practice, practicing will enable a person to check the acquired

knowledge. Moreover, if one only learns in theory, there is no chance to practice what has been acquired.

Through this exchange, English learning acquisition is developed in a more convenient and fast way. A new learner must practice speaking and listening every day to maximize efforts. This will help a person acquire knowledge quickly and efficiently. In addition to learning the new language, always continue to practicing the native language. Additionally, some English words like contractions, slang, colloquialisms, and local color can be best learned through immersion. This would be easier to learn by speaking with people, rather than from a book.

3. OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY THE IMMERSION PATH

Here are some of the opportunities offered by the immersion path: the first path allows you to practice while you learn, that is, it is a constant learning. It will eventually become routine just by conversing and interacting within the family. Some words will simply become second nature due to repetition.

Secondly, by learning the correct pronunciation, words can dramatically change their meaning. One of the best ways to learn how to pronounce a word is listening. Listening allows greater possibility to pronounce words correctly, facilitating better communication in the future.

Thirdly, acquired vocabulary is broader because of the possibility of listening to different people. Each person has something new to contribute, and each person has words that you use more often to engage in conversation. This allows a greater ability to acquire vocabulary.

Finally, learn the coordination of knowledge and speaking. More often good vocabulary and grammar is lost when speaking. So, speaking mistakes are made because your brain and your mouth are not in coordination. This can only be achieved when practicing.

Immersion requires, from the beginning, the effort to learn, because the need is at the moment and the senses awaken to survive in situations. Immersion consists of the following steps: prior knowledge of the culture, language, and the environment a person needs to make a good impression. It is important to have a basic conversation because it allows rapid development of language. Basic conversation facilitates interaction with people initially and rapid language learning; greater willingness to learn, perseverance in practice; study and acquire new knowledge every day.

4. HOW MAKE A NICE CULTURAL EXCHANGE

There are many ways to succeed in the cultural exchange; such as, university exchanges, religious exchanges, labor exchanges, volunteering, exchanges like Au Pair, among others; which are designed to facilitate the apprentice of a language, culture, or simply to exchange information.

Each person may have a different learning style. For instance, learning a new language is difficult due to an individual's learning style. Some people are verbal, other visual, while another person may be logical-mathematical. One person who is an interpersonal learner learns differently from an intrapersonal learner. Learning will take time. No one experience is the same as another.

The immersion process begins with research on the type of exchange that will be performed. In this case, the Au Pair program allows young people, aged 18 to 26, to participate in an experience abroad, living with a family in a region, while caring for children.

4.1. IMPORTANT THINGS THAT ONE HAVE TO KNOW BEFORE LEAVE

Exchanges must be mutually agreed upon by the family and the Au Pair. It is not easy to match an Au Pair with a family, but a correct match is imperative. When lines of communication are open, it makes daily activities more enjoyable. More learning takes place and both the Au Pair and the family will be happier. The process takes practice, perseverance and patience.

Geographical areas also play a factor in language acquisition. It is advisable to visit populated areas because of the large numbers of people to have a conversation. In rural areas that are less populated, it becomes more difficult to integrate and converse with people, other than in the family circle. In the United States, people are not as sociable as in Latin America. There may be cases where families do not know their neighbors. In the case of Latinos, this is unusual.

It is recommended to people analyze the geographic location and characteristics of the city before travel to a new country. Also if possible dialogue with the host family on the possibilities to socialize with more people in the area. Places such as churches, schools, malls and public squares, libraries, among others, could help with this.

The weather is another important factor to immersion. In the winter season it is difficult to perform the same daily activities; therefore, one must have a backup plan. One can meet with close friends, watch movies, enjoy television shows, and participate in on –line classes, among other alternatives. All these factors are essential for learning a new language, but more important is the willingness of each person to learn a new language.

Immersion strategy is an effective way of learning a new language: through experiences, it is proven that people improve their knowledge faster when interacting with others. Within immersion, they develop and create knowledge that cannot be obtained by any other means; these are related to other people's experiences during daily activities.

In conclusion, one can say that cultural immersion is a process that requires daily interaction with the surrounding environment. Immersion practices one's expression of their needs; if one cannot learn, it could be difficult to thrive in the surrounding environment.

CHAPTER 2

LIVING WITH ENGLISH SPEAKERS - CULTURAL IMMERSION IN A COUNTRY

1. READY TO EMBRACE AND LEARN ANOTHER LANGUAGE

Cultural immersion starts from the moment an individual takes a flight to a new country. At this time, the environment starts to change. It is the first place where interaction occurs and the differences of language become apparent. It is a time to appreciate one's own language and get ready to embrace and learn another. Learning a new language is difficult especially when one considers new cultures, traditions, all the non-verbal gestures used in everyday conversation. To socialize effectively with English speakers, one has to get ready to immerse oneself in a new language. This requires dedication, perseverance, and patience. Improving socialization skills can also enhance communication. Entering a country and getting through the immigration process is an arduous task, and it is likely the first step that a person will take when arriving to a new country.

When assimilating to another culture, one should be careful to be open minded to new ideas and ways of life. However, one should always remember her roots, and share traditions and cultures from the originating culture. Through observation, dialogue, sharing experiences, and immersion, a person can quickly acquire the necessary skills to express her needs. Many words may have the same origin as the native language and one should be conscious of root words and prefixes. Getting a full understanding of a new language takes time and hard work.

It helps to establish good relations with the host family because this will strengthen the bond between the host family and the au pair. This enhances communication, dialogue, and a better development of daily activities. By learning the new language and interacting with the host family, this will increase cultural awareness. If communication goes awry, it makes it difficult to adapt to new schedules and routines.

2. IMMERSION'S STEPS

2.1. LINK TO A NEW WAY OF LIFE

Cultures are different, their way of life is too, so that has to change the way we think and the way we act. The person new to a culture has to learn to live and act as the new culture does. This time could be approximately one to two months or longer, depending on each specific circumstance.

One must be willing to perform routines that they may not normally be accustomed to doing. Performing simple duties such as doing the dishes, attend church, or meeting relatives all require prior knowledge of the culture to minimize the possibility of an embarrassing situation. So, a visitor must do her research before arriving in a location and also be willing and ready to adapt to new scenarios. Once a mistake is made, it is very difficult to resolve it. It could have major impacts on the trust and relationships that have already been made. Therefore, prior planning is important to establish to a perfect match. This way the family and the Au Pair have the greatest chance of creating a working team.

Adaptation to meals, schedules, clothing, customs, habits, modes of transportation and mobility, rules and laws, among others are some of the things that one considers in this process. It is helpful to be part of different groups, and social communities. Get involved in churches, clubs, programs and sports all of which will help the person improve her language and communication skills.

During this time, some communication is done through reading. Having prior knowledge of grammar and some words that are similar to the native language will help this process go smoothly. Listening and speaking depends on a person's language ability in English. The more time invested in improving one's reading skills will translate to a more enjoyable experience for everyone.

During this period, one may experience episodes of frustration, anxiety, and fatigue. In some cases, one may feel lonely being in a new country and adapting to so many changes. It will get better in time. Never give up on learning and always maintain a positive attitude.

2.2. HOW MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE

Being in a different city and experiencing different cultures and languages is challenging. For these situations, it is advisable to use social networks. This will allow interaction with people of the same age within the local area. Positive interaction with an au pair groups can help improve socialization and build friendships. Learning from each other and sharing experienced

can be extremely productive. These groups are made up of young people from different parts of the world.

In addition, use apps to have information that suites ones tastes and preferences. Among the applications that can be found are ones that deal with specific things like "Meetup". This app allows a user to meet with people who share similar interests. For example, someone who is interested in art can go to a specific room and speak with others who have the same interests. This App is very popular within American culture. Therefore, if a person is reluctant to use technology or social media, that person will miss out on a wonderful opportunity to learn something new or meet new people. This particular App is designed to generate an interaction between people with the same tastes for fun activities during free time. This application contains a high a number of options for participants. Also, an App that is popular in the native county can be shared in the new country.

First applied to an activity in general, then an activity is organized and a place, time and date is planned; people are there and can still perform activities of the same type later.

Moreover you can also find social groups in volunteering. This can be temporary or continuous; in the case of voluntary, one can participate for as long or short a time period as possible.

In the process of adaptation one can present some missteps. It is good to always keep in mind that reading and news help to have a rapid adaptation because you can learn through these

along with house members. Watching a program, news, sports, or entertainment show will also help establish good rapport with the house members.

Understanding a second language is difficult especially when there are so many words and phrases that don't mean exactly what the words indicate. These expressions take on a whole new meaning when combined and it can add confusion to a conversation. Therefore, once again, listen intently and observe non-verbal cues including facial expressions and body language. This can help improve understanding. In most cases, people will understand that this is a second language learner, and they will make concessions to make a person feel comfortable. The ear and eyes have to adapt to hear a new language. A simple smile or a peculiar frown can tell a speaker if her message is being understood.

Always consider listening to the radio, and watching TV, movies, in English, thus, allowing a greater understanding of the language. In addition, talk and interact with people in the region; it is recommended to have all phones, electronic devices in English.

2.3. HOW THE PROCESS IS GOING THROUGH THE DAYS

During the first few days, the newcomer will feel a slight headache or anxiety due to the effort that the brain performs to assimilate and understand what is happening. With each passing day, it will become easier. As in our countries, the United States citizens also have accents and people speaking with different dialects. Some people from Alabama, Georgia, and New Jersey have unusual speaking mannerism. Each region has its intonation for words; therefore, it is more

difficult to learn the language in some places than others. However, every part of the country has so much to offer that is important to travel and visit as much as possible. If it is not possible due to financial constraints or time limits, then a visit to You Tube can provide an experience.

Moreover, there are also the accents of immigrants as is the case of citizens from India, or China among others where they have a strong accents. It could be difficult to understand them too.

Having a favorite show or novel is an excellent way to practice and stay in good emotional conditions. Some of the recommended shows are Friends and Breaking Bad; they are easy to understand and contain a good story. They help to distract the mind. Watching such shows with subtitles can help improve the person's understanding and help them learn more quickly.

The hardest part of this stage is to understand young people between 11 to 15 years of age. They tend to speak very fast, so it may take a bit longer to understand them. You could say that only comes with practice and time.

3. MAKING ONE A BETTER ENGLISH SPEAKER

Following the understanding is the third stage. This stage is called the writing stage. For this form of communication, a device is imperative. A spell check on a word document or another device can make communication easier. This helps people learn new words and improve

vocabulary. Writing is one of the best means of communication. It allows better communication, either through text messages or e-mail.

During this stage, it is recommended to synchronize computers, cell phones and other electronic equipment in the English language because this helps when writing. Through writing corrector, for example, one can facilitate the writing of the contents.

The next stage presents great moments of socialization, friendships and new social circles that allows one to better express the English language. Social events, movies, celebrations, and birthdays, among other things, are now part of social life.

At this stage, it is important not to feel embarrassed or frustrated by the mistakes made. It is good to try and not go back. When not trying to talk you can stay in a circle and never progress. Practice really does make perfect. In addition, it is important to have one's friends who speak better English correct the learner during mistakes in word usage or vocabulary. It can help facilitate the learning process. Without people correcting a new language learner, it impedes the learning process. Never be afraid to accept constructive criticism. Use it as a learning experience and appreciate the friend for wanting to make you a better speaker.

A technique for pronunciation is using a self-recorded voice. For example, record voice memos and then listen to the results. These can be compared with the English speakers. Also, learn a new word every day and practice it constantly. So on the first day learn word number one. On day two, learn word number two and practice word one. On day three, learn word three and

practice words one and two. There is also a second means to improve pronunciation. Use language dictionaries along with the words respective pronunciation. This is the best way to learn correct pronunciation. It is good practice to go through this method many times. A thesaurus is helpful too. This will help one expand quickly expand her vocabulary.

Finally, talk and express what you want. First, learn to speak and improve grammar. Practice and have talks, chats and dialogue to increase your vocabulary. Read, read and read some more. Every day, one will improve. It is always good to expand vocabulary and the ability to express an idea with arguments. It is important to create conversation circles so as not unlearn, sometimes if you stop practicing, you have a setback. People are very different, so learn to communicate with all types. It is not impossible, but it may take some time. This depends on the amount of education that can be taken and the socialization that takes place. Visit social events, communicate with people, and above all don't be afraid to speak and make mistakes.

This strategy is seen as the interaction with other people and their lifestyles; which facilitates learning a second language and/or any additional information quicker and more efficient. Each experience with day-to-day interactions is a way to learn and increase knowledge. Immersion allows coupling of the individual in a new medium, which forces him/her to learn by the mere method of interacting with the surrounding environment.

Furthermore, this strategy not only teaches as one interacts with others, but requires constant practice to strengthen newly acquired knowledge. This makes the person a better English speaker, since accents and colloquialisms are constantly adapting.

There is no better way to learn something new than living while learning; the prospect of learning something while practicing is different to learning something while assuming what it would be like in real life. So this strategy is applicable with excellent results when learning a second language: living with native speakers to learn is a unique experience.

CHAPTER 3

ENGLISH ACADEMIC LEARNING

1. THE EDUCATIVE COMPONENT

The educative component is crucial when learning a language; the methodology changes from culture to culture. There are different concepts to consider when learning a new language, but there is no better way to learn than conversing with native speakers. The best Option is learning and developing the language similarly to how the natives learned and developed.

There will be difficulty when it comes to initiating the learning process. Individuals that are fluent in their language already know everything about speaking, and learning the many grammatical rules from conversing with them could be complicated. Every language contains different gesticulations, which is intrinsic within each individual and generates a different dialect or lingo. Therefore much practice is required to obtain a mastery of speaking the second language that is being learned.

To initiate new methodologies and adequately obtain new knowledge, the learning speaker will need to forget some grammar structure from their primary language. This may be referred to as receiving a new educative beginning. It is recommended to start learning (as much as possible) from the linguistic basics and build upwards from those; aiming to continuously

improve. Instead of initiating learning within an advanced milestone (without knowing all of the basics); it is optimal to learn as many basics as possible first-off, and then advancing from there.

It is most helpful to enroll in English classes soon after arrival to the new country. The concepts learned in class will help expedite the student's capability to socially interact, thus widening his/her social environment. Socialization into the new environment as previously explained, is of high importance to learning a new language. Socialization strengthens emotional connections between people; aiding the development of listening and speaking skills as a result.

2. METHODS OF STARTING ACADEMIC TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATES

At the institutional level there are different academies that offer educative opportunities. Language classes and personalized tutors are a couple examples for this. Government-funded institutions (like colleges and universities) offer numerous courses to help students learn English. There are different methods of starting academic training in the United States due to each state having unique academic programs: which are designed to help people in their educational development.

2.1. STATE'S DISTRICT EDUCATION

Each state's district education establishes different curriculums for students who want to study English as a second language. These courses are given in English for beginners that lack

(basic, intermediate, or advanced) knowledge of the language; this allows travelers and immigrants to enter the country and carry out whatever business they may have.

For the foreign speaker to find and register for any English classes near his/her location, he/she should either be directed to the nearest school or search the internet for their county's school district. The foreign-speaker will find the various educational programs offered within the school district's web pages. This is to obtain clear information and allow the student to select the English course that is closest and best for him/her.

After selecting the desired course, you will have an appointment in which you evaluate your knowledge level in the language. Speech skills like grammar, comprehension, and speaking are being evaluated here. The results of this diagnostic will decide what course level will be best for your speech skills (in the foreign language). Succeeding the skill level diagnostic, the best times and dates will be selected for your language class. There are six basic levels (of courses) offered by the district, and the seventh being the advanced level for people with English as a second language.

2.2. PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS AND STATE COLLEGES

English courses are also offered by private institutions and state colleges; these courses are designed for individuals that are beginning the process of learning English as their second language. People from different parts of the world (like France, Brazil, Ecuador, Dominican

Republic, and Haiti) reap the most benefits of these programs. There is no age limit, and American instructors provide the classes.

The courses' schedules are very flexible: offering different class periods, including evenings and weekends. The amount of hours for a class's weekday schedule is two per day. However, if class is scheduled on weekends (only Saturdays), they are usually 8 hours per day.

These courses offer a variety of difficulty levels, ranging from basic to advanced. The average course has 40 class hours. These college-leveled classes are the types that have greater emphasis on grammar. There are also some classes that specialize in conversing with others too.

2.3. SPECIAL PROGRAMS

2.3.1. THE GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM (GED)

For people with a better level of English, there are programs offered by the school district in each state: one program being the General Education program (GED). The GED program is a validation for Americans, who (for special reasons) were unable to complete their high-school education. The GED provides language classes, reading comprehension and writing. It is important to say that English classes are arranged for those who do not mainly speak English. The level of demand for students that wish to speak this as a second language will be higher.

The schedules for GED classes generally are Monday through Thursday from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm. The school term is about 4 months long, and the price of the term is \$40. You are required to be a resident or citizen of the state to register for these classes. After those requirements are met, you must pass the entrance exam.

The program also offers math, science, and civics courses; if the student only wants to learn English through this program, they are allowed to only take classes related to secondary language.

The class frequency also plays an important role; it is recommended to take classes at least twice a week. Taking daily classes would be optimal, since it provides continuous learning and establishes the best of results. The probability of improving knowledge in speaking English depends on the number of hours taken to study and/or communicate. So with more hours of practice, students will be learning the new language.

Finally, for people with a higher level of speaking English, they can enroll in college or university classes. These classes may have different themes, and even specializations within the desired theme. This method not only allows one to practice English in the United States, but also gives the person a professional title after they finish.

2.3.2. ONLINE COURSES

Another option to learn English is to take online courses. There are multiple options in this area; even if it could be helpful, it is less recommended if the objective is to obtain an advanced English level. Practice is the most essential part to applying the obtained knowledge. In other words: even if the online course provides excellent grammar and reading-comprehension knowledge, classroom interaction would still be lacking. The interactions with classmates and instructor are highly effective when it comes to learning a second language.

3. TECHNOLOGICAL AID

Technological aid is also available while taking classes. Technological aid plays an important role in learning, especially in this age of information (where technology is at an all time high). Today's technology has created new and improved applications that increasingly simplify daily life.

Some applications, which are relevant to aiding the educative process, are mobile applications (which are accessible via mobile device). Some mobile applications are interactive games, while others are dictionaries. Each game is designed to progressively increase the participant's knowledge of the language at his/her comfortable pace. These applications allow one to practice any language's vocabulary and comprehension regardless of location. Some of these applications create a schedule for practicing, others let the participant use them at their own convenience.

Interactive games, each game having its own activities, obviously helps the player learn whatever language he/she desires. Applications are comprehensive, containing materials for each area of language development. The most recognized or popular language applications are Duolingo, Busuu, Babbel, and Voxy.

Dictionary applications let you hear and see the definition of words. At the same time, the context of these words is also demonstrated. These applications are designed as levels while giving evaluations on performance after each level. These evaluations display valuable feedback pertaining to one's improvement during practice.

There are websites that are not designated educational, but are freely accessible for education purposes (such as YouTube). Websites like these have many different video genres, which means they include many educational videos. These videos range from showing a virtual classroom, to dialogues with subtitles of the viewer's native language, to a children's television program that teaches simple words to its audience. The advantage of these videos is that anybody can view (and review) them as much as necessary.

Online books, shows, and novels are all ways to practice listening and reading the foreign language. Books online allow you to expand your vocabulary while improving conversational skills. Television shows and reading help improve understanding and listening.

All previously mentioned options are helpful when developing the new language. The more options you use, the better and faster the results. Education and practice go hand-in-hand. The more the secondary language is used, the better one's cultural exchanges will be.

The academic strategy is an essential part in the learning process for a second language; learning the grammatical rules and expanding vocabulary are necessary to achieving adequate English knowledge. Without these bases it is difficult to progress in the learning process.

The Academy strengthens and perfects the knowledge learned in daily life; writing correct grammar and reading are things you cannot practice in a classroom setting. In this term, the classroom of the native speakers is the perfect scenario to achieving fluency when speaking, writing and reading.

In conclusion, this strategy is essential in the learning process; helping the person practice the newly acquired knowledge. This refines the foreign student's vernacular to suitable standards when speaking his/her second language, in this case the English language.

CHAPTER 4

TOURIST, CULTURAL, AND RECREATIONAL INVESTIGATION

TOURISTIC COMPETENCE STUDY OF THE CITY OF WELLINGTON, FLORIDA - USA

INTRODUCTION

The results explained in this report were generated through the characterization of touristic activity of the City of Wellington, Florida. I analyzed the potential tourist opportunities the city has in relation with different types of touristic attractions: wild life and cultural events. This investigation is both a strategic model and from local people for developing countries. The tastes and preferences of the United States citizens were identified.

The investigation was generated through a diagnostic sample based on experiences and observation. In other words, it was generated by direct contact with the American culture (in this specific case being the city of Wellington, Florida). Florida is known as a popular tourist destination due to its tropical weather, beautiful beaches, convenient geographic position, and the vast selection of theme parks it contains. All of these factors make of Florida a national and international tourist attraction.

The City of Wellington is located between two big tourist powers, Orlando and Miami. Wellington is 176 miles (two and a half hours drive) from Orlando and 74 miles (one hour and a

half hours drive) from Miami. Additionally, Wellington is the home of the International Polo Club. Polo is considered a classy and prestigious sport. This is an example of Wellington's significance when it comes to the field of tourism.

Four strategies were developed in order to direct the investigation process while identifying each of the details. Each of these strategies are focused in a specific plan; to be able to include all the components of Wellington's tourist activity while generating a complete, clear, and detailed characterization.

The general objective of this investigation is to characterize Wellington, Florida's tourist activity through compilation/analysis of primary and secondary sources. These sources include natural places, cultural places, events, and touristic activities offered within the city.

In order to develop the investigation, the next strategies were implemented. First off, the process of recognition and immersion within the city took place by becoming a resident. After that, I got involved in the local environment while acquiring the implicit knowledge of the city's daily life simultaneously.

Secondly, the online research (such as web pages and secondary documents) assisted with acquiring the initial knowledge of Wellington). When nobody was available to get together with, online sources showed all the local events that were taking place.

Lastly, investigating Wellington's tourism directory helped with obtaining concise information about the city. The pamphlets that were obtained also served as valuable resources for learning about cultural activities.

A sample of the research was directed towards Wellington, Florida. In order to obtain the tourist characterizations; an observation matrix was utilized as a tool to identify plans, programs, and tourist activities offered by the city. This was done with the objective for determining the tourism activity of the area.

The procedure took place implementing three specific phases. In the first phase, information about each tourist attraction of the city was obtained. In the second phase, the condition of each of the attractions was established. In the third phase, the compiled information in the previous two phases was classified; making these results interpreted.

1. RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION

GENERALITIES

THE VILLAGE OF WELLINGTON



Illustration 1. GEOGRAPHICAL
LOCATION OF WELLINGTON –
FLORIDA.

The Village of Wellington is located in the westernmost part of Palm Beach County, sharing a southwestern boundary with the Florida Everglades. Wellington balances a unique hometown/family atmosphere; with an attractive natural environment and has recreational, cultural, and educational activities for all ages of its population. Wellington is one of the most successfully crafted communities in Palm Beach County. It has become the premier community in South Florida; it is known for its abundant parks, quality schools, attractive neighborhoods, and equestrian interests.

Wellington is world-famous for Equestrian and Polo events. In addition, it is one of the top Polo destinations in the world, attracting the world's most accomplished Polo players. The

Village of Wellington is home to both the “International Polo Club of Palm Beach” and the “Palm Beach International Equestrian Center”. (Discover the Palm Beaches Florida. 2016)

2. OBSERVATION MATRIX

The investigation consisted of four phases. In the first phase, information about Wellington’s different tourist attractions was collected through official websites. Later, in phase two, I made a visit to those tourism sites to identify their current states. For phase three, on the list of the city’s most important tourist attractions, tourism potential was recorded.

To complete the investigation for phase four, one SWOT matrix was designed to analyze the city’s tourism potential based on the information collected. In relation to tourism, analyzing the internal and external environment of the city did this.

The observation matrix for the following attractions was classified into natural, cultural, and events. Each contains a description and picture of the event or place.

2.1.NATURAL ATTRACTIONS

The City of Wellington is partially characterized by its vast green areas and ecological policies. The city has a considerable number of parks and green public areas, allowing its residents to enjoy nature. The main green areas found in the city are the following:

NAME	DESCRIPTION
PANTHER RIDGE CONSERVATION CENTER.	<p>Panther Ridge is a non-profit conservation center in Wellington, Florida that provides a home, haven and hope for some of the world's most majestic and endangered big cats. Judy Berens founded Panther Ridge in 1999. Today she provides a home to nearly two dozen such animals. Most of them rescued from threatening situations in which they had been abused, abandoned or neglected. Panther Ridge's custom-built facilities are among the finest in the world, providing the cats with native-like habitats, protection from the elements, ample room to roam, stimulation, and daily attention to their medical needs. In addition to sheltering exotic cats, Panther Ridge is both an education and research facility. School groups are able to visit, interact with, and learn about endangered species in an intimate experience that few zoos could ever replicate. Panther Ridge also works cooperatively with other conservation centers around the world; shares information about the cats' nutrition, medical care, breeding and behavior; and helps to raise money for the protection of big cats and their habitats. Panther Ridge is accredited by the Feline Conservation Federation and the USDA; and is permitted by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. (Residents: Cougars, Caracals, Cheetahs, Clouded Leopards, Jaguars, Leopards, Ocelots, Servals).</p>



Illustration 2. PANTHER RIDGE CONSERVATION CENTER

By: Panther Ridge

PEACEFUL WATERS SANCTUARY

Peaceful Waters Sanctuary with a 26 acre wetlands park, Peaceful Waters Sanctuary lives up to its name, allowing you to walk in a tranquil paradise. There are 1,500 feet of raised walkways that carry you through the park, bringing you right into the heart of the wildlife habitat. There is also a trail that goes around the wetlands, complete with benches to sit on. Regardless of which path you choose, both of them have signs posted with detailed information about some of the birds you may see, or the plants that are growing there. Although it is peaceful, like its name implies, it is definitely not quiet. There are over 50 different species of birds that call the sanctuary their home, and they cheerfully sing out their calls as if performing on cue for visitors. Some of the amazing birds you may see on your visit include, but are definitely not limited to: Great Blue Herons, Pileated Woodpeckers, Black Necked Stilts, and maybe even a Bald Eagle if you're lucky. You may also see some inhabitants of the 4 legged variety too, with foxes, otters and raccoons all calling the sanctuary home. Peaceful Waters Sanctuary is the perfect place to go for a nice, relaxing stroll through the wetlands. It is open to the public until dusk, and is an ideal way to see the plants and wildlife that are native to South Florida. If you bring your camera, you will have the opportunity to take some breath-taking wildlife pictures of animals in their natural habitat. Since there are no tour guides, it is great to bring the whole family and go at your own pace seeing all that you can. The Sanctuary is open to groups and closes daily at dusk. It is located in the southeast corner of Village Park.



Illustration 3. PEACEFUL WATERS SANCTUARY

By: South Florida Finds

THE WELLINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVE

The Wellington Environmental Preserve would have to rank near the top. The preserve has to be among the best, most sophisticated municipal conservation areas in the region. Credit for the preserve also has to go to the South Florida Water Management District, which worked with Wellington to build it. The preserve is 365 mostly wet acres established in 2010 to collect and treat storm water before draining it into the Everglades system. But someone had the bright idea to take advantage of all that water and create a people-friendly, bird-friendly wetland. There is a hard-surfaced trail that runs through and around the preserve, with boardwalks that cross the ponds. Around the perimeter is an equestrian trail — this is Wellington, after all. There's plenty of parking, restrooms and drinking water. There are benches, maps and interpretive signs along the way. A four-story observation tower dominates the southwest view of the property. There are even restrooms along the trail. Species spotted include limpkin, loggerhead shrike, osprey, great blue heron, red-bellied woodpecker, moorhen, little blue heron, mockingbird, blue jay, red-winged blackbird and more. The Wellington Environmental Preserve at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Everglades Habitat (Section 24) is a 365-acre rainwater storage area with nature trails and learning centers. It was built through a partnership between South Florida Water Management District and Wellington. In compliance with the 1994 Everglades Forever Act, rainwater from Wellington must be cleansed of phosphorus before it enters the Florida Everglades. The southern half of Wellington (Basin B) has 9,230 acres of storm water runoff (rainwater) that is now routed west to Section 24.



Illustration 4. THE WELLINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVE

By: The Village of Wellington.

OKEEHHEEL NATURE CENTER	<p>Okeehlee Nature Center features 2.5 miles of trails winding through 90 acres of pine flatwoods and wetlands. Highlights of the center include hands-on exhibits, animal encounters and a nature related gift shop. Marvel at our birds of prey, touch a live snake or prowl for owls during one of our many programs scheduled throughout the year for families, youth and adults.</p>
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Illustration 5. OKEEHHEEL NATURE CENTER

By: The Village of Wellington

2.2.CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS

The city of Wellington presents cultural attractions that are mainly based on Polo, Equestrian Competition, and Golf. Wellington is internationally known for the practice/competition of these sports.

NAME	DESCRIPTION
THE INTERNATIONAL POLO CLUB	<p>The International Polo Club Palm Beach is the premier polo destination in the world, hosting the largest field of high-goal teams and the most prestigious polo tournaments in the United States. Polo enthusiasts descend upon Wellington, Florida; each winter season to enjoy their love of the sport in the most prominent and well-equipped polo facility. The 2016 Palm Beach Polo Season will open on Sunday, January 3, and will conclude 17 weeks later with the USPA 112th U.S. Open Polo Championship final on Sunday, April 24. Polo matches are open to the public, with a wide range of hospitality and guest seating that includes elegant grandstand viewing, field tailgating, stadium seating, field-side champagne brunch at The Pavilion, and exclusive sponsor boxes.</p>



Illustration 6. THE INTERNATIONAL POLO CLUB

By: International Polo Club

THE PALM BEACH INTERNATIONAL EQUESTRIAN CENTER

The Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC) is considered the most recognizable equestrian sporting venue in America today. It is a 160-acre “Equestrian Lifestyle Destination” nestled in the heart of an 8,000-acre equestrian paradise in Wellington. There are 12 competition rings throughout the equestrian show complex suited for show jumping, hunter, dressage, western/trail riding, driving and polo. The surface of the competition arenas, also known as footing, has been upgraded to Olympic quality, drainage was rebuilt through the facility, and a new vendor village has been added. Classes are also held at The Stadium, which features a grass derby field and a refreshing change of pace for exhibitors and spectators. This world-class venue is home of the 2013 FTI Consulting Winter Equestrian Festival, which draws the elite equestrian riders from around the world. International and Olympic equestrians join to compete and thrill spectators with their pageantry and athleticism.



Illustration 7. THE PALM BEACH INTERNATIONAL EQUESTRIAN CENTER

By: Wellington Chamber Of Commerce

TIGER SHARK COVE IN WELLINGTON

Tiger Shark Cove in Wellington, Florida is a very unique and interesting park to visit. This park, which is located in Palm Beach County, was created based off of the ideas of local children and designed by village residents. The construction of the park was funded by private donations and was built by volunteers. The construction and ideas that this park was built on make it a great place to visit for local residents and new comers looking for fun places to bring their kids. There is no better place for kids to visit, then a park that was created on ideas of children themselves. This park features 4 baseball fields and 2 batting cages, making it an excellent choice for parents of children that are big baseball fans. After the kids have spent all of their energy playing softball/baseball and working on their swing, you can relax on a bench while the children explore the magical playground this park offers. There is even a real life looking shark statue in the playground to wow the curious minds of your children. The playground also features a real life size pretend sand castle for your kids to play around in. Tiger Shark Cove Park also offers 3 pavilions and a concession stand, so you can grab a snack and beat the heat in one of their pavilions. This park is a magical place for families with children. It provides exciting activities for children to do while feeding their imaginations. So whether you are a local resident or new to the area, this park is a must see for families with little ones looking to explore their imaginations and softball skills.



Illustration 8. TIGER SHARK COVE

By: South Florida Finds

**BINKS FOREST
GOLF CLUB**

Binks Forest Golf Club is the premier semi-private golf club in Western Palm Beach county located in the horse country of Wellington, Florida. Open to the public, The newly renovated 18-hole golf course will provide a championship-caliber experience unlike any other in South Florida. Gene Bates, one of Binks Forest's original architects, has applied his expertise to modernize the features and playability of the course, while preserving the design's original integrity. Binks boasts majestic pine tree lined fairways that is sprawled across 220 acres. What makes Binks such a unique golf course among Florida courses, is the rare layout characteristic of not seeing an adjacent hole for almost the entire course. Binks Forest opened to rave reviews in the early nineties, and is such a strong venue, that it hosted a PGA tour event, the Sazale Cassic, won by Fred Couples and Mike Donald. It has also been voted a Top 75 Public Golf Courses by Golf Digest. The course and clubhouse was completely renovated in 2007. Binks Forest offers playability for golfers of all levels, golf and fitness programs for all ages, and a 30,000 square foot clubhouse with pool, fitness center, men's and Ladies locker rooms, and ballroom.



Illustration 9. BINKS FOREST GOLF CLUB

By: Binks Forest Golf Club

**PATRIOT
MEMORIES
(12198 FOREST
HILL
BOULEVARD)**

The Patriot Memorial remembers and honors the nearly three thousand people who died in the terrible attacks on September 11th, 2001 at the World Trade Center, at the Pentagon, and in a quiet field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Over 400 first responders perished heroically that day performing their sworn duty. It is because of these facts that the Wellington Community Foundation, a non-profit organization, and the City of Wellington have chosen to accept the responsibility to commemorate 9/11, which extends to the family and friends who lost loved ones, to those who survived, and to those people who will come to visit this site. The Memorial was created for people to come and honor those who died on September 11th and reflect on the humanity of the after effects, and to admire all public safety professionals who have the courage to risk their lives to save others. The world remembers how we came together in the aftermath of September 11th.



Illustration 10. PATRIOT MEMORIES

By: The Village of Wellington

VETERANS MEMORIAL

The Veterans Memorial is located at the intersection of South Shore Boulevard and Forest Hill Boulevard. This memorial is dedicated to all veterans who served honorably in the military in wartime or peacetime. Law enforcement and fire rescue personnel are also honored for risking their lives for our safety. Monuments for each war and conflict along with various flags representing the Armed Forces, POW's, Palm Beach County, Wellington and the State of Florida surround a beautiful fountain. The Park celebrates the achievements and spirit of all service men and women.



Illustration 11. VETERANS MEMORIAL

By: The Village of Wellington

2.3.EVENTS

Wellington presents cultural and recreational events in different places around the city that are sponsored by the city. Residents and tourists gather around for these activities in a family-type environment. The main events sponsored by the city are the following:

NAME	DESCRIPTION
EGG HUNT	The annual Wellington Egg Hunt is a free event held on the Saturday before Easter at the softball fields at Village Park, and begins. Each person have to bring your own basket or bag to collect your eggs. Over 50,000 eggs are spread throughout the fields for this popular community event. Eggs found with pink bunny tickets inside earn a special prize. Fields are separated by age groups: 2 and under, ages 3-4, ages 5-7, and ages 8-10.



Illustration 12. EGG HUNT EVENT

By: The Village of Wellington

**MEMORIAL
DAY**

Each year, the Village of Wellington and the American Legion Chris Reyka Memorial Wellington Post 390 honor all veterans with a Memorial Day Ceremony. Veterans are invited to walk in a Memorial Day Parade beginning at 8:15 a.m. by Village Hall located at 12300 Forest Hill Boulevard. The parade ends at Wellington's Veterans Memorial located on the corner of Forest Hill Boulevard and South Shore Boulevard and will be followed at 8:30 am by the Memorial Day Ceremony.



Illustration 13. MEMORIAL DAY EVENT

By: The Village of Wellington

JULY 4TH CELEBRATION

The fireworks at Village Park. Wellington's largest free event kicks off with live music and entertainment, bounce houses, face painting, a petting zoo, traditional games (pie eating, watermelon eating, hula hoops, egg toss, sack races, tug-o-war), food trucks, vendors, Free Bingo sponsored by Humana, Inc. and more. The evening is topped off with an incredible Zambelli Fireworks display at 9:15 p.m. Visible from Village Park and surrounding areas, this spectacular display will be sure to please the entire family. Music will also broadcast to add an extra level of flare to these fabulous fireworks. Free shuttle transportation service will be available from The Mall at Wellington Green at the Palm Tran bus stop beginning at 6 pm.



Illustration 14. JULY 4TH CELEBRATION

By: The Village of Wellington

9/11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

To honor the victims with a remembrance ceremony at the Patriot Memorial, located next to Village Hall at 12198 Forest Hill Boulevard. The Village Council will share their thoughts and lay a memorial wreath for those lost and affected by the attacks. The memorial includes one of the largest steel beams salvaged from the World Trade Center as well as an eternal flame, fountain and etched glass panels inscribed with the names of the victims.



Illustration 15. 9/11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

By: The Village of Wellington

FALL FESTIVAL

Wellington's annual Fall Festival event is held in October of each year at Village Park. In addition to the most popular "one-night-only" attraction, the Haunted Hallways, families and friends can enjoy: Trick-Or-Treating, Costume contests, Pie eating contests, Bounce houses, A petting zoo, Pony rides, Face painting, Food trucks, Vendors, and more.



Illustration 16. FALL FESTIVAL

By: The Village of Wellington.

3. ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS

In order to analyze Wellington, Florida's tourism potential; a process of gathering and verifying information was carried out with the following phases. The first phase was the collection of information through websites. Each of these websites of city attractions was a great help, since all of the attractions' and events' basic information are in it. This does make the

research development significantly easier. In the second phase, a visit to each attraction was made in order to verify the previously obtained information. While doing this, an objectively critical view of the appeal was made; for this analysis was taken as reference to the knowledge acquired. This was done during the study of tourism and hospitality/management in the Pedagogical and Technological University of Colombia. In the case of events, the city's manager with some experiences of citizens obtained information.

For a clear analysis and target, a SWOT matrix (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) was performed. SWOT matrixes are intended to make a diagnosis of the city's tourism potential from the attractions observed above, and to determine the tourist potential presented by the city from the perspective of research. Based on this analytical tool, I was examining the interaction between Wellington's characteristics in relation to tourism (and the environment in which it competes).

3.1. MATRIX SWOT

Following the visits to all tourism aspects in Wellington, which resulted in the following variables, which are analyzed here.

MATRIX SWOT

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
They have one of the most important nature reserves (Everglades).	Lack of tourist promotion by the city.
Presents the best practice spaces for polo and equestrian, which are internationally recognized.	Lack of actual plan to promote the city as a tourist destination.
Bird watching and spaces for watching multiple animal species, such as crocodiles.	Lack of tourist routes that show the beauty of the city and its green areas.
City policy green and open spaces.	Lack of tourist providers in the area.
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
The city is known as the meeting place for the international polo festival. Also the most important equestrian contest of the country.	Little number of hotels in the city.
Strategic location within two major tourism powers; being Miami and Orlando.	No beaches in the city.
It presents the most important natural reservation of Florida.	High tourist competition within the same state.
Easy access to the city.	
Tropical weather in the city.	

Illustration 17. MATRIX SWOT

For the analysis of internal and external matrices, the following assigned value for the peso of 1 (meaning irrelevant) to 100 (meaning significant) is taken into account. The classification is governed by the rule of this matrix, being 1 to 4 according to the degree of importance. The weighted sum of each variable determines the weighted result for tourism in the city.

3.2. ANALYSIS FOR INTERNAL ORIGIN

		PESO	CLASSIFICATION	PESO WEIGHTED	TOTAL
Strengths	They have one of the most important nature reserves (Everglades).	20	4	80	
	Presents the best practice spaces for polo and equestrian, which are internationally recognized.	20	4	80	
	Bird watching and spaces for watching multiple animal species, such as crocodiles.	15	3	45	
	City policy green and open spaces.	10	2	20	
					225

Weaknesses	Lack of tourist promotion by the city.	15	4	60	
	Lack of actual plan to promote the city as a tourist destination.	10	3	30	
	Lack of tourist routes that show the beauty of the city and its green areas.	5	1	5	
	Lack of tourist providers in the area.	5	1	5	
					100
Total		100			325

Illustration 18. ANALYSIS FOR INTERNAL ORIGIN

By putting into consideration the above-mentioned aspects (regarding Wellington's strengths and weaknesses in tourism), comparison between them and the results of an assessment are possible. It follows that the Wellington has strong advantages in the tourism sector with a value of 225 while not succumbing to the weaknesses that may arise. However, they should be considered are factors that can be potentiated turned into strengths in the future.

It is recommended to analyze the weaknesses and generate substantial changes for converting these into a fortress. In the case of tourism promotion, this is the city's greatest weakness: they should start including their policies to find the tourism sector within the city, therefore producing solutions for its other weaknesses.

3.3. ANALYSIS FOR EXTERNAL ORIGIN

		PESO	CLASSIFICATION	PESO WEIGHTED	TOTAL
	The city is known as the meeting place for the international polo festival. Also the most important equestrian contest of the country.	23	4	92	
	Strategic location within two major tourism powers; being Miami and Orlando.	10	2	20	
	It presents the most important natural reservation of Florida.	22	4	88	
	Easy access to the city.	5	1	5	

Opportunities	Tropical weather in the city.	5	1	5	
					210
Threats	Little number of hotels in the city.	15	4	60	
	No beaches in the city.	5	1	5	
	High tourist competition within the same state.	15	3	45	
					110
Total		100			320

Illustration 19. ANALYSIS FOR EXTERNAL ORIGIN

The city of Wellington's environment offers both positive and negative aspects that directly impact tourism's proper development. Their evaluation is set as the opportunities; the environment is more intense than threats, with a difference of 100 points. This indicates the city has great tourism potential that only needs to reassess some factors in order to transform these threats into more opportunities.

The biggest threat, however, is the lack of hotels in the city. The best possible action for this threat would be to create rental opportunities for both houses and apartments. This way, the option of a new hotel hosting could be generated.

If the previous option is not possible, Wellington's tourists would have to use hotels from the surrounding cities, because they have a variety of hotels and accommodation centers. This should be the second option, because the purpose is the investment within the main city.

4. IDENTIFYING THE MAIN ATTRACTION IN THE CITY

Based on the gathered information (while considering each type of tourism's characteristics), it is concluded that the city of Wellington has two strong tourist attractions. On one side there is cultural tourism associated with the International Polo Club, Equestrian centers, and Golf Club. On the other side, one of Wellington's natural attractions is the Everglades: which is one of the main preserved subtropical ecosystems of the world. The Everglades possesses a subtropical floral beauty with an incredible amount of exotic animals, such as alligators and a wide variety of birds. The Everglades have been declared as a World Heritage site, Biosphere Reserve and Wetland of International Interest. In the case where this marvelous landmark does not exist, touristic trends would plummet and nothing would single out South Florida from anywhere else in the world.

It is important to consider the geographic position of these attractions. An attraction's area is a geographic space where the native flora and fauna conserved. Additionally, this zone brings

four important attractions, each with unique characteristics. There is high diversity among plant and animal species in the Everglades. Birds, alligators, wild cats, and the wild atmosphere characterize this swampy nature preserve.

Therefore, it is concluded that natural tourism dominates Wellington, while cultural tourism is also a prominent attraction. And it contains a great potential for the realization of tourism with great opportunities and strengths and minimal weaknesses and threats that do not prevent the development of a good tourist activity in the city.

CONCLUSIONS

Wellington, Florida has great potential for its own tourism industry, despite the weaknesses and threats present. One can start a tourism development in the area, then the subsequently present weaknesses and threats will correct themselves.

The investigation allows the acquisition of a new perspective regarding the development of the city's tourism. There is always the option to create additional tourist attractions. Attraction size does not matter; enjoying Wellington's geographic conditions through natural tourism, building memories through culture, and celebrating national traditions through events is the best way to take advantage of what this city has to offer.

Research is one of the most enjoyable ways to interact with native peoples while practicing a new language. This investigation not only aided with learning the new language; but also helped with practicing the acquired knowledge, improving grammar, and developing the overall knowledge of English.

Interacting with native peoples throughout investigations like this is arguably one of the best ways to get out of one's comfort zone, forcing the researcher to expand his/her horizons. Doing this builds relationships with new people in the population foreign to the researcher. Conducting an investigation allows one to get out of his/her daily routine while accelerating the immersion into the new culture.

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ANNEX A. Visits Made to the Tourist Places

1. The Peaceful Waters Sanctuary



2. The International Equestrian Center



3. Patriot Memories



4. Veterans Memorial



5. Tiger Shark Cove



6. Binks Forest Golf Club



7. The Wellington Environmental Preserve



8. Okeehetee Natural Center



ANNEX B. The Host Family

1. My host family: Grandma, Rocio, Host sister, Host mom, Host kid and Grandpa.



ANNEX C. The Au Pair's Life

1. Meetings with the Au Pairs and the LCC.

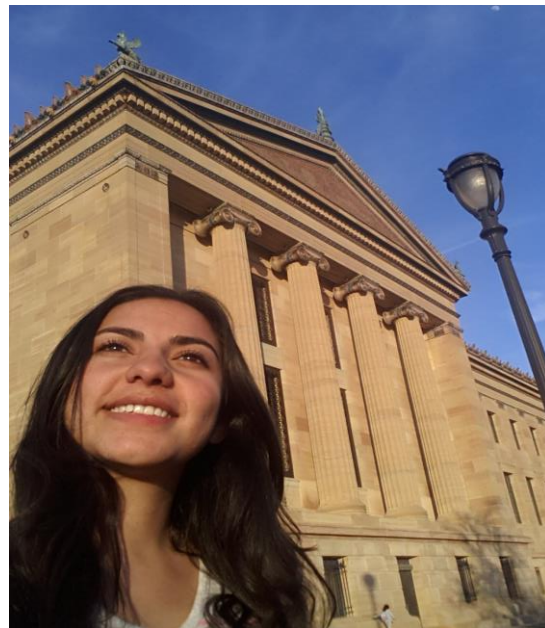


2. Trips

Bahamaas (Nassau), St. Maarten, St. Thomas.



New York, Philadelphia, New Jersey.



Orlando.



ANNEX D. The American Professors



ANNEX E. The Au Pair's Classes



By: Mesa R. 2016

ANNEX F. The Student Certificates



Certificate of Excellence

This certificate is awarded to

LEIDY ROCIO MESA4063

by IXL on MAY 13, 2016

for excellent performance on **2 sixth-grade language arts skills**




IXL DEAN OF STUDENTS

Certificate of Excellence

This certificate is awarded to

LEIDY ROCIO MESA4063

by IXL on MAY 24, 2016

for excellent performance on **5 sixth-grade language arts skills**




IXL DEAN OF STUDENTS

Certificate of Excellence

This certificate is awarded to

LEIDY ROCIO MESA4063

by IXL on JULY 7, 2016

for excellent performance on **5 seventh-grade language arts skills**



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Paul W. Winkler'.

IXL DEAN OF STUDENTS