



## **PROePOLISH**

<http://www.PROePolish.com>

**PROeLang: Polish Language and Culture Online  
Personal Learning Environments (PLE). Phase 2**

### **Project Rationale**

*It is paradoxical that many educators ... still differentiate between a time for learning and a time for play without seeing the vital connection between them...  
(Leo Buscaglia)*

*Social practices in online venues reveal the potency of novel environments in shaping forms of communication  
(Carla Meskill)*

The teacher is an indispensable element of any learning process. This is a conclusion of my research and work on online courses. Further, I have found that online courses are – and will increasingly prove - an indispensable part of contemporary learning. Online learning will develop to something that will penetrate our daily lives and revolutionize the way we acquire knowledge.

PROePOLISH is thus the result of my research on self-learning and online learning methods and combines the two abovementioned and supposedly paradoxical statements. The online courses I offer to the learners “hides” me as a teacher in sets of instructions, courses’ structures, suggested orders of learning, practices and tests, and that allows learners to climb the staircase of language understanding and command. The courses, nevertheless, give full freedom to the

learner in terms of time, space and economical requirements characteristic to the traditional teaching. The learner - browsing the computer, going forth and back from site to site, learning and seeing cultural references and jokes - is given a free hand in organizing their own learning paths. It is work and fun at the same time. It is free time but useful in learning something new.

### **What is a PROePOLISH?**

**PROePOLISH is an innovative and pioneering website offering on-line courses of Polish language** with elements of Polish culture on various levels from Basic Polish to (in the future) Translation Courses and Linguistic Games. PROePOLISH's courses combine set of instructions and information about the language and culture as a written mini-lectures, audio recordings, podcasts and exercises with various links to external information and films organized as a structured "staircase" of lessons/modules to achieve various levels of Polish. This is why a staircase was used the leading motif in the PROeLang and PROePOLISH websites. The external links to the best available opened-access materials function as additional mode to deepen the knowledge of the given theme and to maximize the Internet resources in the process of self-learning. It is the learner who decides if she needs just the basic information to go further or she requires more engagement in the issues.

### **Background?**

PROePOLISH is a result of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of PROeLang project which was initiated in 2013. PROeLang is the result of cooperation between the teachers of two different languages who worked on conceptualising an innovative and progressive, easy, attractive online blueprint, transferable to other languages and based on what we called *toolkit*, which is set of online resources and applications designed into paths of learning. Ramona Gonczol and myself have built a personal learning environment (PLE) online, called PROeLang following the philosophy of Personal Learning Environments, which are the systems that

help learners become agents in designing their study of a language and manage their own learning pace.

PROeLang was developed since 2013 and it still continues as a joint project. Since January 2014 the two teachers involved are developing their own courses based on this cooperation, working closely together and negotiating the further steps to keep the methodological coherence between the two joint projects in PROeLang (toolkits, online paths, creation of listening and writing materials, etc.). PROeLang is the result of mutual recognition of the vast changes in learning environments, which have been taking place in the contemporary world. Learners today are agents in course design and content and they take active part in their learning. We take seriously the contemporary assumption that “the learners as agentive assumption trains attention on active, observable and reportable use of discourses in instructional processes.” (Meskill 2013, 4) Following this we are creating structured paths of materials, original material, information, tables and pictures, online links to language training and other website references that maximize the learning process. A teacher is a crucial part of any learning process, even when the teacher is hidden in the online instructions and guidelines. Nevertheless, the modern teacher is aware of the inaccuracy of the old perceptions of learners as “passive recipients of specific knowledge deemed necessary and handed down by vulnerable individuals and institutions.” (Meskill 2013, 3)

PROeLang, including the separate sites of Polish (PROePolish) and Romanian (PROeRomanian), is based on a fresh conception of active, aware, engaging learners. By creating the website of PROePolish in 2014-2015, I have trailed the abovementioned idea, giving learners an open space for two courses, in which they can both follow the instructions and (freely using the links) create their own learning paths.

PROeLang Polish is an innovative, open-access source of diverse material allowing students to learn Polish in a engaging and effective way. There are no such many-structured and open websites that will give an independent learner

this chance in organizing her self-learning. PROeLang Polish is, to my knowledge, the only existing open website of this kind offering learners an enormous amount of information and instruction for self-learning.

### **What Courses?**

The PROePolish Project aims at developing a set of attractive, engaging courses from Basic Polish to a Translation Course and Language Games Course at the following levels:

- [Basic Course](#)
- [Follow Up 1](#)
- [Follow Up 2](#)
- [Independent User Course \(Intermediate\)](#)
- [Translation Courses](#)
- [Games \(Vocabulary/Grammar and Culture testing\)](#)

The description of the planned courses can be seen at

<http://www.PROePolish.com/PROeLang-polish-courses-outline.html>

## **PROeLang and PROePOLISH develops**

### PERSONAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

We know that

- Learning is personal
  - There are as many ways of learning as there are learners
  - Traditionally, learning is associated with teachers, students and classrooms
    - Now you can decide when, how and how fast

Proelang and ProePolish offer the personal self-learning, respecting learners' ambitions, freedom, needs of their own pace in learning and studying. The

courses will give you satisfactory set of information with fun links and the notion of you as a responsible, independent and serious learner.

Go and see PROePOLISH

<http://www.PROePolish.com>

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