Mediation in Language Learning and Teaching

Michaela Ritter Konárková & Šárka Kadlecová
Charles University, Faculty of Arts, Language Centre

Language Education: Paradigm Shift

CEFR/CV 2018

Changes

- Learner → Social Agent
- 4 skills → 4 modes: reception, production, interaction, mediation

Emphasis on

- Interdependence of individual & collective, cognitive & social, intra- & interpersonal (from Vygotsky’s cognitive development theory)
- Language as “an emergent dynamic process of shared meaning, which creates and transforms itself through interactions of individuals with their environment.” (Aden, Joëlle. (2012). Linguistic mediation at the foundation of shared meaning: Toward a paradigm of enaction in language teaching. Ela. 167. 267-284.)

Mediation Strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To explain a new concept</th>
<th>To simplify a text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Linking to previous knowledge</td>
<td>• Amplifying a dense text</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Adapting language</td>
<td>• Streamlining a text</td>
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Mediation Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mediating a text</th>
<th>Mediating concepts</th>
<th>Mediating communication</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Relaying specific information</td>
<td>• Collaborating in a group</td>
<td>• Facilitating pluricultural space</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Explaining data</td>
<td>• Facilitating collaborative interaction with peers</td>
<td>• Acting as intermediary in informal situations</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Processing text</td>
<td>• Collaborating to construct meaning</td>
<td>• Facilitating communication in delicate situations and disagreements</td>
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<td>• Translating a written text</td>
<td>• Leading group work</td>
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<td>• Note-taking</td>
<td>• Managing interaction</td>
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<td>• Expressing a personal response to creative texts</td>
<td>• Encouraging conceptual talk</td>
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<td>• Analysis &amp; criticism of creative texts</td>
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MillAT Project

Collaboration: University of Warsaw, University of Helsinki, Charles University, Vytautas Magnus University

Completed Project Outputs

Peer-observation questionnaire in the area of mediation, online peer observations

37 observers and observes
4 universities
34 LSP lessons and courses
4 languages

Intended project outputs

- Materials Developing Mediation for Online/In-class Courses
- Mediation in Online/In-Class Language Teaching - a Guide for (E-) Teachers,
- Scholarly Article

Contact

michaela.konarkova@ff.cuni.cz
sarka.kadlecova@ff.cuni.cz


Peer Observations Results: Top 3 Mediation Activities/Strategies

- facilitating collaborative interaction in a group
- helping the peers better understand the issues discussed
- adjusting language and paraphrasing the content of a text
- breaking down complicated information into constituent parts
- activating and linking to other texts, previous material, background knowledge of the world

http://millat.uw.edu.pl/