Making mediation more visible in language teaching

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The 29th Communication Skills Workshop
“Motivation and Engagement in Language Teaching and Learning”

9 April 2021
From four **skills** to four **modes of communication**

- Reception
- Interaction
- Production
- Mediation
“Mediation is when we use language to explain something to someone who doesn’t fully understand it without our help.” (Kiddle, n.d.)

Mediation is a fundamental part of everyday life
• Language teachers have typically organized their classes and activities around the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening.

• MiLLaT survey: The majority of teachers and students surveyed were either uncertain of or did not know what mediation is in language learning.
This workshop aims to consider:

• How to **raise awareness among students** of what mediation is and why it is relevant, which could increase motivation towards and engagement with mediation-related activities;

• How to **self-/peer evaluate the effectiveness of mediation** following such activities and become aware of individual strengths and weaknesses or development needs as a mediator.
Three example tasks in language courses:
• Task A. Writing a summary of a research paper
• Task B. Leading a group discussion on a field-specific topic
• Task C. Giving instructions to patients (e.g., on medication use)

Two questions you will consider in groups for one of the tasks:
1. How could you introduce the task to students as a mediation activity?
2. How could you motivate students to self-/peer evaluate the effectiveness of mediation after the task?
You will work in small groups...

1. Join your Zoom room.  
   Mark your room number on the screen.

2. Click on your group's link.  
   You will find it in the Zoom chat.
... to answer questions about one of the tasks.

3. Post your ideas on your Flinga wall. Have a group secretary do this.

4. Return to the main after 20 minutes. Call for help if you need it.
Your ideas will be shared with all participants.

5. The moderators will comment on your ideas.

Kari  Mika  Tuula

Flinga walls: Task A, Task B, Task C
Workshop summary

Main points made during the workshop

• Move from skills to modes of communication
• Necessity of mediation to communication
• Need to increase awareness of mediation among teachers and students

Areas that need development in the future

• Tasks to increase awareness of mediation and its real-life usage
• Students’ peer- and self-evaluation of mediation skills
• Definition of effective mediation
• Methods for teachers to use to increase motivation for mediation-related activities
Some useful links about mediation

MiLLaT website and MiLLaT on Facebook

Mediation in Teaching, Learning and Assessment (METLA) on Facebook

Kris Peeters' 2020 webinar slide: "The place and importance of mediation in language learning and teaching"

Michaela Ritter Konárková & Šárka Kadlecová's poster: "Mediation in language learning and teaching"

Tim Goodier's 2020 article "Teaching mediation in the English language classroom"
References


