

Making mediation more visible in language teaching

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The 29th Communication Skills Workshop

“Motivation and Engagement in Language Teaching and Learning”

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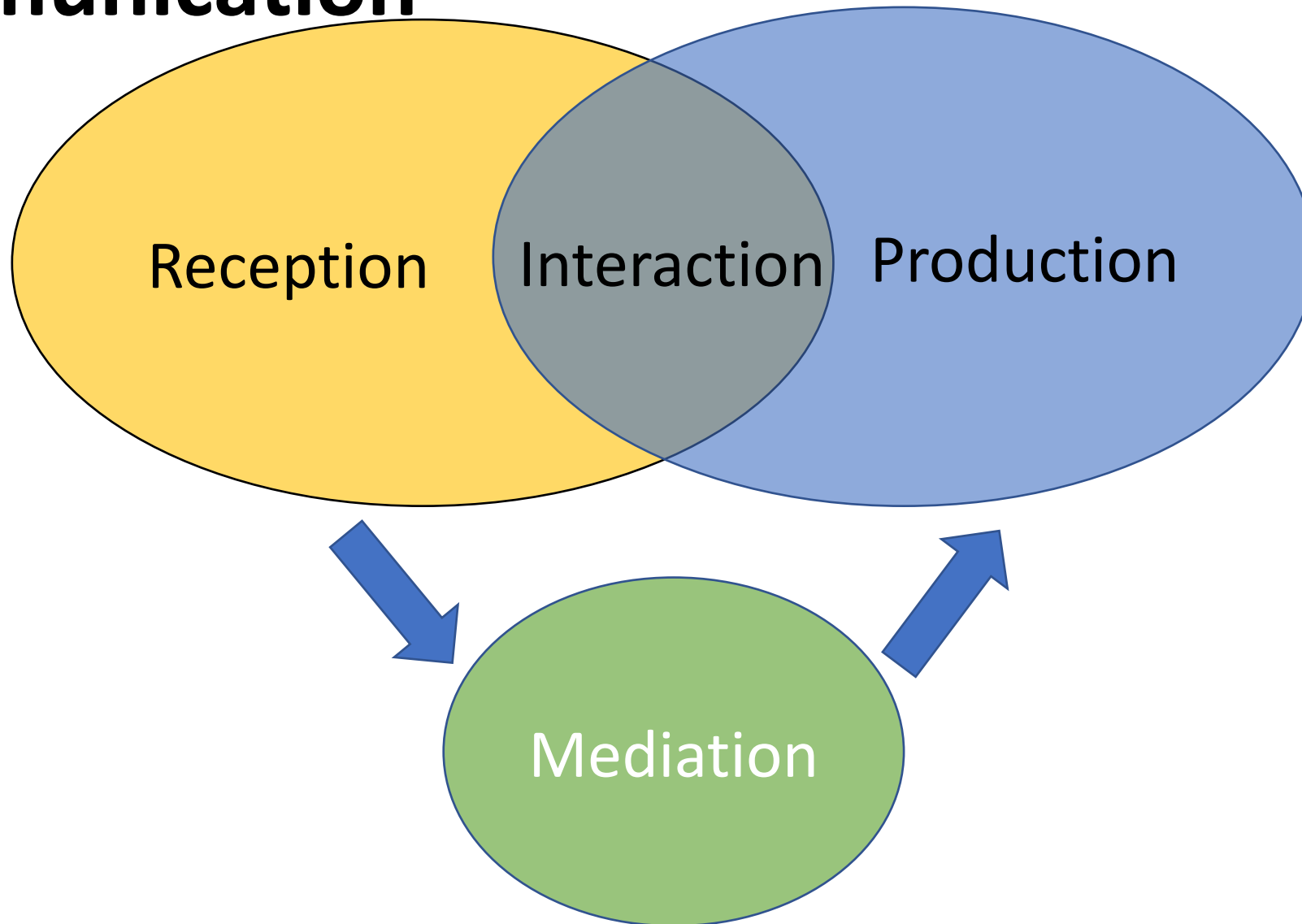


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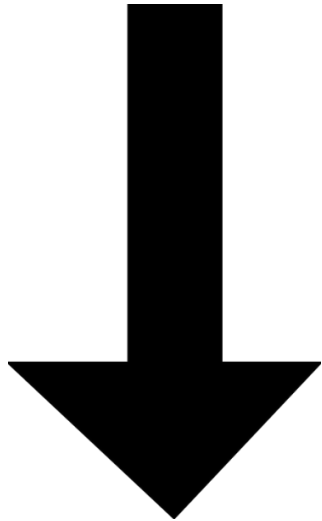
Mediation in Language Learning and Teaching

From four **skills** to four **modes** of communication



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

Person / Text / Language A



Person / Text / Language B

Mediation is a fundamental part of everyday life



Mediation in Language Learning and Teaching

- 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?

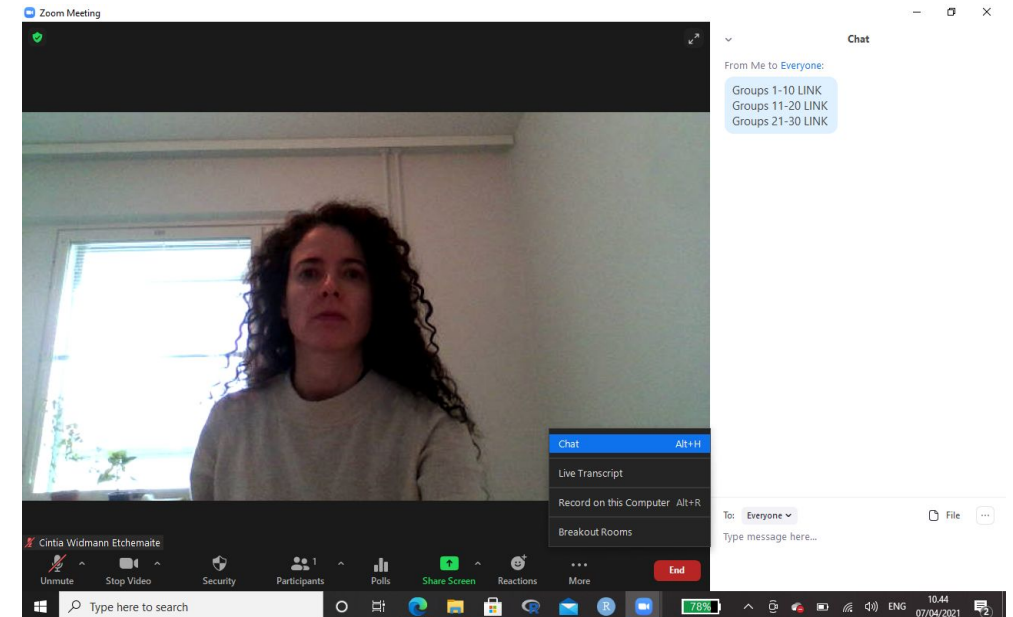
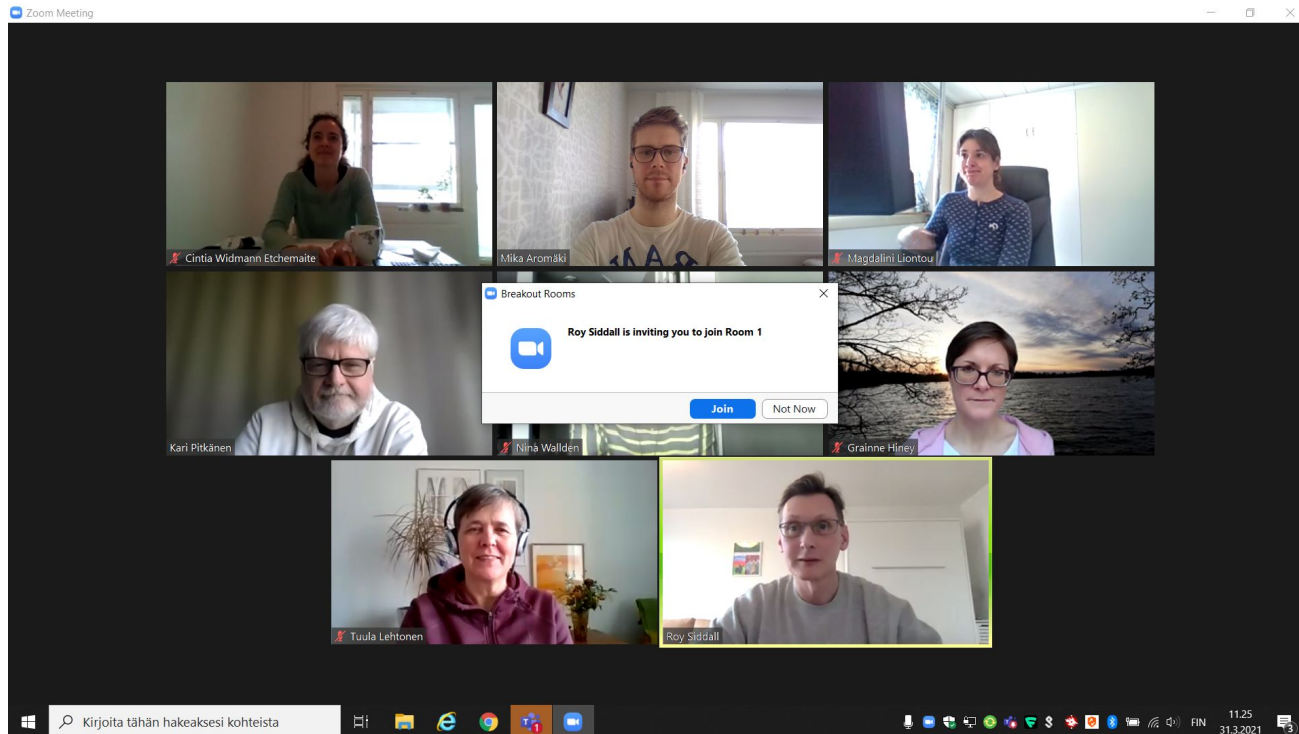
You will work in small groups...

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.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://edu.flinga.fi/s/EPCKGLP>. The page header includes the Flinga logo and navigation options like 'Square', 'Message', and 'Send'. The main content area is titled 'Please use blue color for Q 1 answers.' and contains a blue box with the question: '1. How could you introduce this task to students as a medication activity?'. To the right, a yellow box contains the question: '2. How could you motivate students to self-/peer evaluate the effectiveness of mediation after this task?'. A central blue box provides instructions: 'TASK B. Leading a group discussion on a field-specific topic. Please consider these two questions in the context of this task.' Below these, a gray box asks: 'Examples of other activities that can be considered as mediation related?'. A note at the bottom says '(Please use gray color for Q Extra answers.)'. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the Windows logo, search bar, and system tray with a 76% battery level and date 07/04/2021.



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"](#)

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