

Language Instruction as Personal Development Issue

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Domains: Applied Linguistics & Language Teaching Methodology

Context and challenges:

Specialists in languages spoken by highly industrialized nations or by large numbers of population have developed extensively methods and textbooks to serve as support in teaching activities of mother, second, and foreign language. The design of teaching and learning materials for many of these languages has become a tradition amply nourished by recent studies in applied linguistics and communication theories, which currently feeds itself from analyses of its own results and material production. This is not exactly the case of 'small languages', like Romanian, for which a rather conservative perspective is maintained in teaching it as mother tongue, and, to my knowledge, no sustained research program of teaching it as a foreign language still exists.

However, in both cases, for various levels of linguistic competence and contextual reasons, the teacher may be confronted with lack of teaching and learning supports. Creation and design of specific materials may be, in such cases, the alternative, which is the basic assumption for my present research direction.

Outcomes:

Providing students with support materials created by the teacher have the advantage of adapting the content to be learnt to the cultural context in which languages are taught (case studies: French in Romania, Romanian as a foreign language, Romanian for native speakers – argumentation issues). Strategies and specific procedures may be developed, among which:

- a) Use of authentic documents in the foreign language class to foster communication student-teacher / student
- b) Use of self-made diagrams and multimedia presentations to introduce topics of grammar, vocabulary, and elements of cultural background
- c) Devising pedagogical texts by adaptation of everyday conversations, literary excerpts, encyclopedic content

- d) Autobiographical story-writing by the teacher, to introduce the students to real life topics, giving them access to the 'secrets' of the flesh-and-bone individual standing in front of the class (in progress)
- e) Adaptation and/or creation of linguistic content directed towards personal development of the students
- f) Highlighting steps to be taken in the pedagogical approach of various layers of linguistic competence (grammar, vocabulary, cultural, communicative content)
- g) Designing and creating tasks and activities by combining and harmonizing pedagogical approaches to mother tongue proficiency development and to foreign language acquisition

Recent developments

2017: [Pour une approche discursive de l'enseignement-apprentissage du roumain comme langue étrangère](#) EBSCO, ERIH PLUS, CEEOL

2018: 'Internet spoken' Romanian and Romanian as a foreign language *CNCSIS-UEFISCDI Research Mobility Project* MC cod PN-III-P1-1.1-MC-2018-0683 (2228 LEI)

2019 (in progress): [Strategies and procedures for developing foreign language lexical competence]