

Friday 5 June

12:00 - 12:40pm

Room: Block Y, Room Y303

Presentation Title: Listening to the "silent language": Assessing intercultural communicative competence

Presenter / Co-presenters:	Veronica Morgade Cuna, Leibniz University of Hanover Franziska Bard Cordero, Universidad Veracruzana
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Theme:	Developing life-long learners
Presentation Type:	Paper presentation

Abstract

In this paper we will describe how aspects of intercultural communicative competence can be fostered and assessed in on-line collaborative projects. In order to do so, we will present the findings of an ongoing on-line exchange carried out by the Spanish Language Department of the Leibniz University of Hannover (Germany) and the German Language Department of the Veracruzana University (Xalapa, Mexico) during the academic year 2008/ 2009. Students collaborated electronically by forums and wiki, using their native language to interact with their partners and exchange personal opinions and socio-cultural information.

The aim of the Cultura methodology is to develop understanding of another culture through a series of steps. This approach and methodology allow students to observe similarities and variations through a process of juxtaposition. Via a common Website (in our case a wiki) and an asynchronous computer-mediated exchange, the students develop a deeper understanding of each other's cultural attitudes, beliefs and values.

Data was collected from questionnaires on the Web, wiki content, language learning diaries, critical incidents and self evaluations. On the basis of Byram's model (1997) of Intercultural Communicative Competence (ICC) and the guidelines for assessment intercultural experience (Byram, 2000), we attempt to assess qualitatively and quantitatively the development of the ICC in e-learning environments.

Byram, M. (Ed.). (2000). Routledge encyclopedia of language teaching and learning. Londo and New York: Routledge.

Biodata

Veronica Morgade Cuna is a Lecturer of Applied Linguistics (Spanish) at the Centre for Languages for Specifics Proposes (Leibniz University of Hannover, Germany).

Since 2006 she has been undertaking PhD research at this Centre and at the University of Antonio de Nebrija (Madrid, Spain). The main research interest include: learner autonomy and second language acquisition and the development of Intercultural Communicative Competence in CALL environments.

Franziska Bard Cordero is a German teacher and coordinator at the Universidad de Veracruz, Mexico since 2005. She is a member of the managing staff of the Association

of German Teachers in Mexico as of 2006 and an examiner for international German exams since 2007. Ms Bard has published several articles and offered academic talks on a regular basis.

Prof Bard has participated organizing The National Congress of German Teachers in Xalapa, Mexico, May 2007 and in Mexico City, 2008.