# Mixed Class Teaching: Differentiation and reciprocal learning through PBL 

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## Thank you

- Prof. Tin-Yu Tseng
- Organizing committee of this TBL/PBL Series
- You


## This presentation



## Mixed classes

## What they are:

## Classes with HL and L2 learners

Why they matter:

- All language departments with HL learners have them
- They are the most challenging classes to teach
- There is no fully developed methodology


## ALL LANGUAGE PROGRAMS WITH HL LEARNERS HAVE MIXED CLASSES

## Two types of language programs with HL learners

- Single track (all mixed classes)
- Dual track - L2 track + HL track


## Dual track programs:

## Eventually the two tracks meet



# The main challenge of mixed classes: Diversity of learner profiles 

## L2 learners

## HL learners



## MIXED CLASSES ARE HYPER-DIVERSE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

## The non-negotiables of mixed classes

Both student populations matter:
$>$ Both learner-types benefit from instruction
$>$ Both learner-types contribute to the learning process
> There is positive student interdependence

# PROJECT-BASED LEARNING (PBL) IS A REALLY GOOD WAY TO MEET THESE <br> NON-NEGOTIABLES AND TO SUPPORT LANGUAGE LEARNING FOR REAL-WORLD LANGUAGE USE 

## BEFORE PBL




## FOUNDATIONS OF MIXED CLASSES



# The main challenge of mixed classes: Diversity of learner profiles 

## L2 learners



## Brainstorming session

- What are some general differences between HL and L2 learners?
- Let's organize these a bit:
- Skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing
- Modes of communication (presentational, interpersonal, interpretive
- Register: academic, informal, dialectal, etc.
- Functional skills: What learners can do with language (intuitive v. metalinguistic knowledge)
- ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines (skills, modes, register, functional skills, cultural competency, communication strategies)


## Learner strengths

## L2 learners

## HL learners

- Skills: Reading, writing
- Registers: Academic, formal, standard
- Functional skills: Performancebased, metalinguistic knowledge, rehearsed language
- Cultural competence:
"Big C"
- Skills: Listening, speaking
- Registers: Everyday language, informal, dialectal
- Functional skills:

Proficiency-based, every day functions, intuitive knowledge, spontaneous language

- Cultural competence:
"Little C"


# HL and L2 learners are mirror images of each other in many ways 



## Learner strengths

## L2 learners

## HL learners

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## Two perspectives on this



Two studies of paired interactions between HL and L2 (Bowles 2011, 2012)

- HL and L2 learners were matched for proficiency;
- They worked together on an information gap activity;
- In the first study learners benefited more from the activity than HL learners;
- In the second study, both types of learners benefited equally from the activity.

First study: Only L2 learners benefitted


- Information gap activity with a nicture of a


# Sub-optimal task design Fails to meet the non-negotiables 


new knowledge. Lz
learners benefitted from HL learners' expertise.

## Second study

- Information gap activity with a picture of an


## Correct task design: Meets the non-negotiables

learners. Written task benefitted HL learners. Learners collaborated to learn from each other.

## Positive student interdependence

## Student perspective

## Creating activities that meet the nonnegotiables of mixed classes

| Beneficial practice for L2Ls | Beneficial practice for HLLs |
| :--- | :--- |
| Listening | Reading |
| Speaking | Writing |
| Presentational, oral | Presentational, written |
| Interpersonal: Spontaneous | Interpersonal: Rehearsed, edited |
| Implicit grammar and vocabulary <br> learning <br> Informal, every day language | Explicit grammar and vocabulary <br> learning |
| Fittle C cultural topics | Big C cultural topics |

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## Adapting cloze activities for mixed classes

My great-grandmother. I $\qquad$ liked to have known her, a wild, horse of a woman, so wild she $\qquad$ marry. Until my great-grandfather $\qquad$ a sack over her head and her off. Just like that, as if she $\qquad$ a fancy chandelier. That's the way he did it. And the story goes she never forgave him. She $\qquad$ out the window her whole life, the way so many women sit their sadness on an elbow. I wonder if she $\qquad$ the best with what she got or was she sorry because she $\qquad$ be all the things she wanted to be.


## Creating activities that meet the nonnegotiables of mixed classes

| Beneficial practice for L2Ls | Beneficial practice for HLLs |
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## Recapping:

## Take home lesson about mixed classes

Meet the non-negotiables by

- Taking advantage of complementary strengths of HL and L2 learners to create activities that draw on the strengths and develop the weaknesses of each learner-type
- Creating opportunities for collaborative learning
- Holding both students accountable for contributing to the activity (assign the harder task to each type of learner);


## NOW WE ARE READY FOR PBL



## What is PBL?

- A learner-centered teaching approach in which students work over a period of time on a task which involves engaging with complex issues, solving problems, or meeting particular real life challenges. To communicate their learning, students develop a product (e.g. timelines, blogs, brochures, reports, publicservice announcements, etc.)


## Sample project

## ACTFL SmartBrief

## SPOTLIGHT ON LANGUAGES

## Bilingual children's book explores people behind masks


(Yuri Cortez/AFP/Getty Images)

A Texas family has self-published a bilingual children's book about wearing masks and to address the worries of students. Dan Heiman and Martha Samaniego Calderon printed "Behind My Mask (Detras de mi Cubrebocas)," to help students -- including their two children who are featured in the book -- explore their emotions and identity amid the coronavirus pandemic.Full Story: The Dallas Morning
News (tiered subscription model) (7/1)
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## What is PBL?

- A learner-centered teaching approach in which students work over a period of time on a task which involves engaging with complex issues, solving problems, or meeting particular real life challenges. To communicate their learning, students develop a product (e.g. timelines, blogs, brochures, reports, publicservice announcements, etc.)


## GOOD PROJECTS DO NOT HAPPEN SPONTANEOUSLY

## There are challenges

- Designing and implementing projects
- Making PBL work in a "regular" (grammarbased) class
- Creating real-life projects for lower-levels of proficiency
- Assessment


## The three steps of project design

- Step 1: Decide on a theme and the problem
- Step 2: Determine the final outcome (product)
- Step 3: Structure the project
- Information gathering/collecting
- Information processing
- Information presenting/reporting


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## The theme

This is the topic of your project (what the project is about).
e.g. The professions, careers

## Brainstorming: Themes?

- The professions
- Family
- Health
- Traditions/celebrations
- Travel
- Food
- Events


## Themes: Noun/noun phrase

- The professions
- Family
- Health
- Traditions/celebrations
- Travel
- Food
- Events


## Why start with the theme?

1. As a general strategy, starting with the broadest statement of the theme will make it easier to find a problem and a product.
For example, start with the theme of "family", and identify a real-world problem in need of a solution.
2. Starting with a theme also helps you identify the vocabulary students will need to master to address the problem.

## Back to the challenges...

- Designing and implementing projects
- Making PBL work in a "regular" or "traditional" class, with a textbook (vocabulary and grammar points to cover)
- Creating real-life projects for lower-levels of proficiency
- Assessment


## Demonstration/Quick activity

- What are common themes in language textbooks?


## Anticipating mixed classes...

Here are some themes that work well with HL and
L2 learners and that are common in many textbooks.

Sports
Popular music
Life and career goals
Hobbies
Travel
Strategy: Compare and contrast
cultural practices, perspectives, and products
of the US and the target culture



## BACK TO...

> Designing and implementing projects
$\checkmark$ Making PBL work in a "regular" (grammar- and vocabulary-based) class

- Creating real-life projects for lower-levels of proficiency
- Assessment


## The three steps of project design

- Step 1: Decide on a theme and the problem
- Step 2: Determine the final outcome (product)
- Step 3: Structure the project


## The "problem" or "real-life issue"

This is the issue that is being addressed through the project. Problems can come from the real world, the school setting, or the home environment.

## The opposite of a real-life issue

A non-authentic project would involve the kind of assignment students are typically given in school: compose an essay, create a poster or model, write and present a book report, or make a PowerPoint presentation on a topic they've researched. Beyond their teacher and maybe their classmates there's no public audience for students' work, no one actually uses what they create, and the work they do is not what people do in the real world.
John Larmer
http://www.bie.org/blog/what does it take for a pr oject to be authentic

## BUT DOESN'T THIS MAKE PROJECT WORK TOO HARD FOR BEGINNER LEARNERS?

## Back to the challenges...

- Designing and implementing projects
- Making PBL work in a "regular" (grammarbased) class
- Creating real-life projects for lower-levels of proficiency
- Assessment


# Real-life problems can be solved at very low levels of proficiency 

Family, daily life

- Gifting
- Proposing a schedule of chores
- Proposing a weekend activity for the family
- Convincing parents to get a dog or other animal

School: Organizing an event Food: Creating healthy/easy food from the heritage culture

# Real-life problems can be solved at very low levels of proficiency 

Family, daily life

- Gifting
- Proposing a schedule of chores
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- Convincing parents to get a dog or other animal

School: Organizing an event
Food: Creating healthy/easy recipes for making food from the heritage culture

## Proposing a schedule of chores

Novice: Words and phrases, formulaic language, everyday topics, the self

- Intermediate: Looselycontrectedi sentences, create with language, familiar topics related to everyday life
- Advanced: Connected discourse of paragraph length, can handle a complication, topics of community, national, or international interest
- Superior: Series of paragraphs, pages; concrete and abstract perspectives on a variety of topics


## Creating healthy/easy recipes from the HC

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The common perception is wrong


## Question in a job interview

List four adjectives that describe you. Pick two that are strengths and two that could be considered flaws.

How linguistically challenging is this question? How cognitively challenging is it?

## What is my point? <br> We can engage students in complex and authentic activities with relatively simple language

## Positive adjectives

| Affable | Cecisive | Hardworking | Observant |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

## Proficiency levels in brief

Novice: Words and phrases, formulaic language, everyday topics, the self

- Intermediate: Looselycontrectedं sentences, create with language, familiar topics related to everyday life
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## WHAT ABOUT FLAWS?

## Negative adjectives

- abrasive
- abusive
- acrimonious
- belligerent
- bigoted
- brusque
- cowardly
- deceitful
- egotistical
- jealous
- litigious
- obnoxious
- obtrusive
- opportunistic
- petty
- tyrannical
- unfaithful
- vainglorious


## A STRATEGY FOR THE NEGATIVES

## I WANT TO BE MORE... I'M WORKING ON BEING MORE

Observant, mindful, organized, patient, outgoing, proactive, thankful, efficient

## I WANT TO BE LESS

Shy, opinionated, impatient, pessimistic, anxious, fearful

## Proficiency levels in brief

Novice: Words and phrases, formulaic language, everyday topics, the self

- Intermediate: Looselycontrectedं sentences, create with language, familiar topics related to everyday life


## Cognitive demands: VERY HIGH

- Superior: Series of paragraphs, pages; concrete and abstract perspectives on a variety of topics


## BOTTOM LINE

## WE CAN ENGAGE STUDENTS IN COGNITIVELY COMPLEX TASKS WITH VERY LIMITED LANGUAGE

## ENGAGEMENT + AUTHENTICITY

## The three steps of project design

- Step 1: Decide on a theme and the problem
- Step 2: Determine the final outcome (product)
- Step 3: Structure the project


## The product

- How students solve the real world problem
- How students communicate their learning


## These are products

| Affable | Decisive | Gregarious | Non-judgemental | Sensible |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Hardworking | Observant | Sensitive |
| Agreeable | ned | Helpful | Optimistic | Shy |
| itious | , | Hilarious | Organized | Silly |
| Amiable | Diplomatic | Honest | Passionate | Sincere |
| Amicable | Discreet | Humorous | Patient | Smart |
| Amusing | Dynamic | Imaginative | Persistent | Socialable |
| Artistic | goin | Impartial | Pioneering | Straight-Forward |

## Products

- Survey
- Menu
- Greeting cards
- Marketing campaigns
- School event
- Poster
- Pamphlet
- Interview


## My next point: <br> Most products do not have a fixed level of proficiency

- Public service announcement


## Nouns and adjectives

## ACTFL NOVICE



## Question formation, Commands

## ACTFL Intermediate



5 PASOS PARA ENSEÑAR ESPAÑOL A NIVEL SECUNDARIO (9-12)
(Especifico para CSULB)

1. OBTENER UNA LICENCIATURA BACHELOR EN ESPANNOL

- Obtener una licenciatura en español
- Presentar el examen CBEST (por sus siglas en inglés) antes de obtener la licenciatura
- Mantener contacto con el personal del programa LOTE para crear un plan de estudio
- Iniciar con el programa de Single Subject Credential Program antes de graduarse (opcional)

4. PRACTICAS

- Completar un semestre de prácticas en una de las escuelas públicas en acuerdo con la Universidad
- Pasar 2 TPAs (por sus siglas en inglés)
para más información:
cynthía Leathers: 562-595-2200 cynthía.eathers@csulb.edu AS-317 o visite...
LOTE: http:/wnw.ced.osulb.edu/singlesubject/program/lote

2. CUMPLIR CON LOS COREQUISITOS PARA SER ADMITIDO (A) EN EL PROGRAMA SSCP

- Pasar las clases (pre requisitos) para ser admitido (a) en el programa

3. CLASES PRINCIPALES DEL PROGRAMA

- Completar 4 clases: estas clases requieren trabajo en el campo de estudio
-EDSE 435, EDSE 436,
EDSE457, and EDSS 450F
- Consultar maestros de español para futuras referencias
- Obtener aprobación en el lenguaje. 2 maneras de obtener la aprobación:
-Completar el programa SSCP
- Pasar el CSET
- Aplicar para realizar las prácticas profesionales


## 5. EMPLEO

- El cumplimiento del programa (SSCP) junto con las 2
observaciones (TPAs) permiten la adquisición de la credencial la cual permite enseñar la materia a nivel secundario (9-12)


## ACTFL Intermediate mid

## Order of operations

## 1. SELECT PRODUCTS THAT ADDRESS THE PROBLEM/REAL WORLD ISSUE 2. ADJUST PROFICIENCY-LEVEL



## Another strategy: Using other people's words

- Theme: Careers/professions
- Problem: Organizing a jobs fair at school
- Product: Making or selecting posters?


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| Collect | Create |
| :--- | :--- |
| Presentational, writing, |  |
| Intermediate mid |  |$|$

## Verbs/tasks

## Collect

Organize
Find
Select
Display

## List

Classify Reduce

## Create

Compose
Analyze
Translate
Propose

## Evaluate

## Present

Expand

## Verbs/tasks

Using other people's language, input oriented projects

## Collect

Organize
Find
Select
Display List
Classify Reduce

## Create

Compose
Analyze
Translate
Propose

## Evaluate

Present
Expand
quick response to crisis COMMIMMENT GREATCOMMUNIEATIONSKILSS APTITUDE FOR SCIENCE LSTEnTnG SHilus Ability TO MAKE SNAP DECISiONS emotional stability curiousity problem solver DETAIL ORIENTED mindful 2 PII 316 DISCIPIINED

COMPASSIONATE


Mestith Solenos Therapertlo Bervions
knowledgeable alkention to dekails


Theme: Professions

## Product: Posters

Problem: Organizing a Job fair at school


## Low-proficiency students $\rightarrow$ Collections

Theme: Celebrations/birthdays
Real world problem: Gifting

- A collection of recipes
- A collection of poems
- A curated list of musical genres...



## QUESTION: <br> HOW DO CURATED COLLECTIONS SUPPORT ACQUISITION?

ANSWER: BY PROVIDING FOCUSED, CONTEXTUALIZED, AND AUTHENTIC INPUT

## Quick recap

## Be strategic in your selection of the product

- Find products that address the problem
- Use adaptive strategies
- The same product, but at different proficiency levels
- The same product but creating v. selecting


## PRODUCTS FOR MIXED CLASSES

## RECALL:

## Quick guide to creating activities for mixed classes

| Beneficial practice for L2Ls | Beneficial practice for HLLs |
| :--- | :--- |
| Listening | Reading |
| Speaking | Writing |
| Presentational, oral | Presentational, written |
| Interpersonal: Spontaneous | Interpersonal: Rehearsed, edited |
| Implicit grammar and vocabulary <br> learning <br> Informal, every day language | Explicit grammar and vocabulary <br> learning |
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## Select products for BOTH populations of learners

## PRESENTATIONAL: Writing



## RECALL:

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## Select products for BOTH populations of learners

PRESENTATIONAL: Writing

## HL learners

Speaking, spontaneously

## L2 learners?

Authenticity (real products for a job fair) $+$ the non-negotiables of mixed classes

## This brings us to structuring the project

- Step 1: Decide on a theme and the problem
- Step 2: Determine the final outcome (product)
- Step 3: Structure the project
- Information gathering - INPUT
- Information processing - FORM + MEANING
- Information presenting - OUTPUT


## Theme: Problem:

## Careers

Preparing for the Spanishlanguage job market

CV (resume)
Cover letter
Video CV
Mock Interview


## How these steps support language learning

- Information gathering (input)
- Information processing (negotiating meaning)
- Information reporting (output)


## Information gathering/collecting

 authentic materials to create CV, cover letter, video CV, job interview- Advice on how to prepare a CV, a cover letter, video CV , and interview
>Authentic models of all these products
Job announcements articles and articles in Spanish
$\star$ Webpage of course descriptions for different university departments


## WHY ALL THIS?

STUDENTS WILL NEED TO SEE MODELS TO LEARN VOCABULARY, PRACTICE WITH GENRESPECIFIC LANGUAGE FEATURES, LEARN ORGANIZATIONAL CONVENTIONS, ETC.

## WHO GATHERS ALL OF THIS INFORMATION?



## Structuring the project

- Information gathering (input)
- Information processing (negotiating meaning)
- Information reporting (output)


## The CV and cover letter

## Information processing

Allocate a lot of class time to working with the input:

- Noticing vocabulary, grammatical constructions
- Comparing different models of the same product
- Analyzing forms and functions
-Studying the conventions of each genre
- Creating a rubric


## WHO DOES ALL OF THIS?



## Structuring the project

- Information gathering (input)
- Information processing (negotiating meaning)
- Information reporting (output)

The big ideas behind the informationpresenting step

- Break up information presenting into subpieces;
- Work in class on a given sub-piece at a time;
- Assign a grade to each sub-piece (low stakes assessment);
- Give feedback on each sub-piece that will help students improve on their work;
- Evaluate the final product using the "real-world standard"


## Exit cards to support the creation of products

## Prompts for CV:

- Look at the sample CVs in the center and make a list of 10 section labels and 30 common verbs that go under those labels (group exit card);
- Write section labels for your own CV (individual exit card);
- Write content under each section (individual)
- Turn in first draft of your CV (individual exit card);

For the cover letter:
"Every great man is a sentence" what is yours?

## Exit cards to support teaching

- I look over exit cards and underline problems and return them to students the next time we meet;
- Students form groups and I give mini-lessons to on particular points of grammar, as needed;
- The final product emerges from the sum of the work done in class and turned in through exit cards.


## Continuous cycle



## Back to the challenges...

- Designing and implementing projects
- Making PBL work in a "regular" (grammar-based) class (e.g. with family -> adjectives)
- Creating real-life projects for lower-levels of proficiency
- Assessment -
- Every step is assessed using exit cards (low stakes assessment)
- Students receive feedback at every step and edit their work in small increments, individually, in groups, and collectively, in class.
- Final product is evaluated by real world standards (high stakes assessment)



## RECAPPING

## PBL summary

$\checkmark$ The theme
$\checkmark$ The driving question
$\checkmark$ The product

The stages of working with information

- Gathering or collecting
- Processing
- Reporting or Presenting

Select these for real-world relevance and engagement, coordinate with your textbook/syllabus
Select products that can solve the driving question and adjust for level. In mixed class have two products.

Structure this process so that students collect, study, and copy authentic models of the products. Provide the necessary practice and feedback for students to create a high-quality project.

## Recapping: Mixed classes

Both student populations matter:
$>$ Both learner-types benefit from instruction
$>$ Both learner-types contribute to the learning process
> There is positive student interdependence

## To meet these non-negotiables...

- Take advantage of the complementary strengths of HL and L2 learners to create activities that draw on the strengths and address the weaknesses of each learner-type
- Create opportunities for collaborative learning
- Hold both students accountable for contributing to the activity (assign the harder task to each type of learner)


## Quick guide to creating tasks (projects) for mixed classes

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## Have fun!




# WRITE TO ME AT: MARIA.CARREIRA@CSULB.EDU 

## STOP HERE

## Mock interview

## Gradual Release of Responsibility



## Gradual release of responsibility

(Pearson and Gallagher, 1983)

- I do, you watch
- I do, you help
- You do (together), I help
- You do, I watch

