

ISSUE 11
MAY 9, 2018

Brought to you by Maris Hawkins
and Stacey Margarita Johnson



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WTL PODCAST EPISODE TO COME OUT...



Preview of the next episode

EPISODE 52: STORY LISTENING AND EFFICIENT ACQUISITION
WITH BENIKO MASON

A few months ago, a listener sent in a few suggestions for possible podcasts guests. One of those suggestions was a scholar named Dr. Beniko Mason, an English teacher and researcher in Japan. I am so thankful that I had the chance to get to know Dr. Mason for this episode, and I hope you will enjoy the interview as much as I did. Dr. Mason tells us all about her compassionate approach to language acquisition which she calls Story Listening and Story Reading.

Join us on Friday to hear more about the most efficient ways for learners to acquire language, and then be sure to check out the show notes to find links to Dr. Mason's publications and current projects. If you can't wait until Friday, check out www.storiesfirst.org/ for a sneak preview of Dr. Mason's work.

What I have found is that Story Listening and Story Reading is, so far, the leading methodology, I feel. The reason why I say that is because comprehensible input is the cause of language acquisition.

-Dr. Beniko Mason



EPISODE 51: DEVELOPING AS A PROFESSIONAL AND PRESENTING AT CONFERENCES WITH ERIN CARLSON

This episode reaction comes from Stephanie Schenck, a former high school Spanish teacher and is currently a PhD candidate in Literacy, Language, and Culture at Clemson University



I just finished listening to Erin Carlson’s interview on the WeTeachLang.com podcast, and before I jump in to this reflection, full disclosure: Erin is my dearest friend, professional soulmate, and the (much-needed) Slytherin balance to my Hufflepuff. She’s the best. And one of the reasons I love her so much is her philosophy on teaching and her beliefs on teacher development.

I know we are not alone in these beliefs. When we care about students, it only makes sense that we care about their teachers, too. That’s one of the reasons why professional development conferences are so important. Although... honestly? I paid zero attention to conferences when I first started teaching. I don’t think I even knew they existed, much less the hierarchy of state, regional, and national organizations. Those first few years were tough, and I really could have used a tribe of people in my corner.

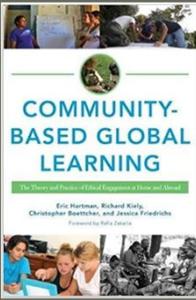
Fast-forward twelve years, and I now see what a gift it is to have other people who truly care about their language teacher colleagues. That’s what I think is inspiring about this particular interview with Erin. The message is that we all have something to offer when it comes to supporting and giving back to other teachers. For some, that may look like mustering up the courage to submit a proposal to present at a conference. Perhaps it is taking a new teacher under your wing (and out for margaritas), even though nobody asked you to or assigned you that role. It could be participating in #langchat on Twitter, or inviting a colleague to jump in when they are feeling isolated at their school. There are myriad ways we can support one another, because we all know that the job can be grueling and some semesters are better than others.

Finally, in this interview, Stacey mentioned that Erin’s “Big Three” session at SCOLT was standing-room only and packed to the brim. This is true; I came by right before it started and would only have gotten a seat if I crowd surfed to the front of the room to sit by the projector. However, that being said, if you’ve never presented at a conference before and are nervous to start, don’t let the thought of a full house scare you. Whether your first session has 5 attendees or 50, the vast majority of teachers understand that presenters are donating their time and expertise to help all of us continue to grow as professionals. People, overwhelmingly, are kind and appreciative. Presenting at conferences is one of my favorite ways to give back to the profession, and I would encourage everyone to give it a shot. And if you need someone to share in the celebratory margaritas afterward, Erin and I will be there.

Are you thinking about presenting at a conference for the first time? Reach out to Erin or Stephanie to ask questions or get a bit of support, or leave a comment on this episode on weteachlang.com! I'm sure many members of our podcast community will be happy to encourage you along the way!

BOOK GIVEAWAY!

We Teach Languages



ASK US A QUESTION ABOUT COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING, SERVICE LEARNING, OR GLOBAL LEARNING, AND YOU CAN WIN THIS BOOK!

Enter in the month of May by sending us your questions and contact info by voicemail or text at (629) 888-3398, by email at weteachlang@gmail.com, or message us on Facebook or Twitter. Submissions must be received by 5/31/18.

More info at weteachlang.com/giveaway



Win this book!

Submit your question about community-engaged learning or service learning by the end of May!

Reactions to past episodes:

Robin Boling @SoyBolinguai Following
@weteachlang You're doing an awesome job! Keep on inspiring us! 🌞

Prof Nina Moreno @uscinhamoreno Follow
Great interview, @Erinrae0399 !
9:31 AM - 4 May 2018

Maris @Marishawkins
So excited that this podcast was uploaded just in time for my trip home! Loved the interview @Erinrae0399 !!

Mely Aguilera @profemely Following
Replying to @weteachlang
Very refreshing. I saw her with her team during "Kick back with a Cool IPA" @Actf12016 Boston and inspired me to present. My school was doing very similar things and it validated what were doing and encourage us to present @Act12017 Nashville about unit openers in thematic units!
6:36 PM - 7 May 2018

2 Retweets 3 Likes
Tweet your reply
We Teach Languages @weteachlang · May 7
Replying to @profemely
What a cool story! Thanks for sharing!
Erin Carlson @Erinrae0399 · 16h
Replying to @profemely @weteachlang
Oh, wow!!! I'm so excited to hear that! Yes—I think both inspiration AND validation are so important to share with each other!!

Mita Nsw shared a post.
21 hrs · 🌐
This is a great podcast for any language teacher - have a listen!

Updates from Past Guests & Contributors

Catch Up



In episode 49, Kate Paesani talked about CARLA resources. If you want to learn more, think about signing up for an online CARLA summer institute! You can start in June or July.



Gianfranco Conti (episode 13-14) also contributes to the Facebook group that he formed last summer. If you like to hear even more of his ideas, you can join Global Innovative Language Teachers and get ideas from teachers around the world.