

ISSUE 41
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This newsletter is brought to you by
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WHILE YOU'RE WAITING FOR THE NEXT
WTL PODCAST EPISODE TO COME OUT...



Preview of the Next Episode

EPISODE 88 & 89: GOOGLE TRANSLATE IN THE LANGUAGE
CLASSROOM WITH ERROL O'NEILL, PARTS I & II

How do you handle Google Translate and other online machine translation in your classroom? For the next two weeks, Dr. Claire Knowles interviews Dr. Errol O'Neill about what Google Translate is, how it works, and what the research says about how language teachers can effectively incorporate Google Translate into the classroom.



Dr. Errol O'Neill

Claire and Errol are experts on Google Translate as a tool in the language classroom. They are both language teachers who frequently teach novice-level classes, and both are also researchers who study the platform and its uses. If you've ever wondered what to do with Google Translate, episodes 88 and 89 will be useful to you!



Susanna Hobrath @susannahobrath · Jan 14

Google Translate is a powerful, free iPad app that allows ELs to acquire content language and interact with peers while learning English. See me for a lesson, and watch your ELs soar. #NoviPride #OHFamily



Catherine Ousselin @CatherineKU72 · Jan 13

Replying to @CatherineKU72 @JakeMillerTech

A few examples: Google Translate can be helpful, but please know that it is not a useful tool unless we instruct student how to expand the examples or check the part of speech. Thank you for creating this tool to support language learners!

RESPONSE TO EPISODE 87: A NOVICE DESCRIPTIONS UNIT WITH HEATHER SHERROW

This response is written by Megan Budke whom you can find on Twitter @MeganBudke

Heather strikes a balance between authentic resources and comprehensible input, which are often seen as two competing forces but can lead to such powerful learning when used together. She ensures that even though her Soy Yo unit is for novice learners, the language is not repetitive by utilizing an abundance of authentic resources, but she still centers everything around comprehensible input. I love her hands-on approach to the unit's creation - laying out all the resources and categorizing them by grammar concept. It's an effective approach to teaching grammar in context that would compliment the unit template I often use from Donna Clementi's and Laura Terrill's book, *The Keys to Planning for Learning*.

Heather makes learning meaningful by giving students an audience that will view their work. While she had her students put positive post-its on lockers around the school, I had students post paper Tweets in the theme of #soyyo in the hallway. Either way, the knowledge that students' work would be posted in a public venue drives that internal motivation to create a more meaningful final product.

The most impressive activity of this unit was the Google survey where students experienced the creation of stereotypes first-hand. I envision that students could make inferences reflecting on their thinking after this experience using the ACTFL-produced interpretive template found in *Implementing Integrated Performance Assessments*.

Through it all, Heather's Soy Yo unit demonstrates that novices CAN tackle big topics with support.



Reactions to past episodes:

Matthew Miga @Migas4Edu Following
 @weteachlanG & @heather_sherrow This week's episode ROCKS! I am amazed at the unit, the creativity, and the language use. PLUS, sharing it with us is OUTSTANDING!

MFLA @MFLAMD Following
 Colleagues from across the state are sharing their experiences and expertise with the world! If you haven't checked out episode 86 of @weteachlang podcast with @senoraschlegel @Mme_Moore and @AofAandR and episode 87 with @heather_sherrow head over there now and have a listen!

N Scully
 JANUARY 11, 2019 AT 11:49 AM | EDIT
 This was such a fantastic episode. Heather's materials are so rich and full of really great input. I feel can easily be adapted to teach my novice college students. I can see how much hard work she put into this. Thank you!

Michelle Nicola
 JANUARY 14, 2019 AT 11:13 AM | EDIT
 I loved this episode. Thank you for walking us through your thought process in creating this unit. for sharing all of your amazing resources and sparking new ideas for me!

Resource Corner

- On Heather's Weebly site, she shares many ideas for skill centers.
- She also has a Google Drive collection of activities for the Daily 5.
- Check out her collection of previous conference presentations.

Updates from Past Contributors



Sebastian Faber (episode 21) recently wrote an article in the Nation. In it, he discusses the Spanish radical right and the evolution of the party. He also compares the right in Spain with the rest of Europe.



Leslie Grahn (episode 69) has written a recent blog post on how she incorporates the daily 5 framework into the world language classroom. This framework teaches five literary tasks. She shares examples and resources as well on her Pinterest page.