
ISSUE 54
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This newsletter is brought to you by
Maris Hawkins and Stacey
Margarita Johnson



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WHILE YOU'RE WAITING FOR THE NEXT
WTL PODCAST EPISODE TO COME OUT...

A graphic with the text "We Teach Languages" in a large, white, sans-serif font. The background is a dark, semi-transparent grid of diverse human faces, suggesting a multicultural or inclusive theme.

Preview of the Next Episode

EPISODE 101: ONE DEPARTMENT'S APPROACH TO
COLLABORATIVE PLANNING

Do you work in a collegial department? Do you plan all of your instruction together with other members of your department, even the folks in different languages?

Most of us do not!

In episode 101, the language teachers at North County High School do collaboratively planning as a rule, and make a convincing case for why we all should.



RESPONSE TO EPISODE 100: CELEBRATING 100 EPISODES!

In this response, Karen Graf talks about how she uses WTL episodes with pre-service teachers in her language teaching methods course. You can find Karen on Twitter @grafespanol



As a language methods instructor, I am constantly working toward providing opportunities for my students to be able to do something with the content, not just know about it. To that end, several We Teach Languages podcast episodes have been an invaluable tool to connect my FL teaching candidates with experienced educators in the field, adding their voices to the pedagogy we read about or listen to, discuss, and ultimately create for their future classrooms.

For example, in Episode 69: Engaging all Learners with Leslie Grahn, she guides us through tiering different tasks by starting with the way we design the task originally and then how to scaffold down to provide supports that a student with lower proficiency might need. These include providing a word bank or the first few words of an answer or adding a challenge, such as more open-ended questions, that a more advanced learner might need. As differentiating a task for different learners is difficult even for experienced language teachers, Leslie's guidance helped break down the approach, allowed us as a class to work through the practice together with a common task, and then provided opportunity for students to modify one of their own previously designed tasks including supports and challenges for different types of learners. I also designed a scavenger hunt where students collaborated to identify an authentic resource from one of Leslie Grahn's Pinterest boards and describe a possible task that integrates that resource, taking into account the specific group of learners.

Using Episode 45: Thematic Units and Social Justice with Anneke Oppewal and Jennifer Wooten, students were able to hear concrete steps for integrating social justice themes in the language classroom. Anneke talked first about the importance of identifying authentic resources that were meaningful and comprehensible for novices, which led us to analyze unit themes from a traditional textbook and identify specific authentic resources that could provide for more diverse perspectives. For example, students found infographics describing the diversity in the makeup of families in different communities which could be used in lieu of the traditional family tree, prevalent in many beginning units of a traditional textbook. As well, students identified other authentic resources such as posters, videos, and a social media feed from a youth activist environmental group that could be integrated into a traditional unit on nature and the environment. Both Anneke and Jennifer in this episode note the value of taking even small steps in integrating social justice themes into the classroom rather than feeling as if you have to develop a full unit or nothing at all. This is especially important for FL teacher candidates as they are developing their own feel for how to design units and lessons and deciding how they want to integrate meaningful themes using the diverse perspectives and authentic resources from the target language community.

Both of these episodes and many more have provided a way to enhance the experience of my language methods students in working through the pedagogy with the help of the voices of experienced FL teachers providing real-world classroom examples and, ultimately, bringing them closer into the professional community of language educators.

Updates from Past Contributors



Errol O'Neill (episodes 88-89) recently published an article in CALL-EJ. It is called "Online Translator, Dictionary, and Search Engine Use Among L2 Students." You can find it for free at this link.



Beniko Mason (episode 52) recently published an article in the Journal of English Teaching with Stephen Krashen. It is entitled "Direct Teaching of Vocabulary?" The article addresses the direct teaching of vocabulary as a skill-based approach.



Reactions to past episodes:

Thank you so much to everyone who has participated in our giveaway! Remember today is the last day to enter to win WTL swag!

Marta Silva Serrano @MsilvaONHS Following

@weteachlang is a phenomenal resource for all WLang Ts. All information is relevant and makes me reflect on my own instructional practices. Great guests share wonderful insights and hints for teaching languages. Highly recommended for #langchat & #heritagelang PDs. @OlatheWI ❤️

Tim Eagan @tjeag Following

This 100th episode reminded me of all the great episodes that I need to go back and listen to for a second time. Such a wealth of resources in the show notes. Thank you @weteachlang for helping create a super supportive community of teachers online.

Lesley @cioccas Follow

Replying to @weteachlang

I'm looking forward to revisiting episodes of We Teach Languages to celebrate the 100 episodes milestone 😊 Here's the correct link for the Giveaway:

Nelly @profnoory Following

Replying to @weteachlang @Marishawkins

Joyeux anniversaire @weteachlang! 100 episodes of outstanding PDs in my PJs ❤️



Listeners' favorite WTL episodes:

As part of the 1 Like = 1 Answer game on Twitter, many listeners posted their favorite episode of the podcast. Here are a few of the answers. Are there any you haven't listened to yet? You can find all of our past episodes on the website. It's never too late!

Global Seal of Biliiteracy @globalbiliteal Following

Q12. This is an easy question! We love Episode #63 with our Executive Director Linda Egnatz @miprofeAP on the @BiliiteracySeal and Episode #83 with our @globalbiliteal Board of Advisor member Maria Carreira from @NHLRC_UCLA on teaching heritage learners.

Justin Slocum Bailey @IndwellingLang Following

12. SOOO many good ones to choose from, but I'll go with Ep 82, @doriecp interviewing @ProfeRandolph about social justice and representation in the #language classroom weteachlang.com/2018/12/07/ep-... @weteachlang #langchat #NationOfAdvocates

Megan Budke @MeganBudke Following

12) Favorite @weteachlang episode is the #soyyo unit from @heather_sherrow! Loved hearing how to revolutionize that novice-level identity unit with #authres & social justice!

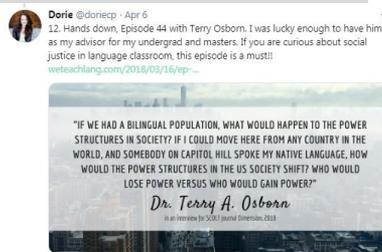
Matt Coss @MattLaoshi Following

12) Hmm... that's a hard one. I really liked the episode with @spsmith45, he's someone whose knowledge and perspective I really like and respect. Also the episode that @ProfeRandolph did on social justice (presentation with @SraStephanie was 🍌) AND anything with @doriecp

Maris @Marishawkins

Replying to @SrtaBugIII @weteachlang

Man! Ok- well #12- my favorite episode was @SenorG because it was the very first episode I heard and it got me hooked on @weteachlang !!



Julia Koch @jaybeekay518 · 14h

12) OMG how am i supposed to choose?! I do love the episode with @MmeBlouwoff !

Jenny Delfini @JL_Delfi Following

12 I really enjoyed 47 with @tjeag and @MmeBlouwoff!

Linda Egnatz @miprofeAP Following

12. Best episodes: #59-60 How do we expose learners to out-of-class opportunities for L2? #83 Heritage Learners

carolyn siegel @carolynrsiegel Following

12) a tie between Episode 16 w @gianfrancocont9 (which is why/how I found out about the podcast) and Episode 72 w my wonderful colleagues from @GannAcademyWL (so proud to share their excellent work!)

Mely Aguilera @profemely Following

12) So many! But maybe @spsmith45 episode. It brought peace to my mind when I was being bombarded with too many language approaches.