



Section 4: Productivity in Language Teaching

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Enhancing Language Production through Speaking: The TV Project

In order to improve students' foreign language production, practice is essential and thus, students need to be given opportunities to use the target language in communication. Activities that are of interest and fun to students, that enable them to work together and experiment with the language will have a positive impact on their language production.

In the project presented in this talk, students are encouraged to be creative and come up with unique individual sentences by using the functional and communicative potential of language as proposed by communicative language teaching. Furthermore, they need to work cooperatively and make use of the language material that is available to them, as suggested by cooperative (collaborative) language teaching (Richards & Rodgers 2001).

With the aim to enhance language production and use, this talk introduces a classroom project, called The TV Project, that requires communication and cooperation among students and in which the latter work in groups of four or five and prepare and perform one type of TV program (e.g. news, a quiz show, a segment of a soap opera or movie, or a documentary) and one commercial. Each group has to come up with a name for their channel and use corresponding materials or props. Students are expected to perform their programs to their peers. Group performances can be evaluated based on visual aids or props, time management, and task achievement. Individual performances can be evaluated, based on students' use of grammar and vocabulary, fluency and intelligibility. The steps to be followed during the project and a rubric that can be used for evaluation will be explained in detail.

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