

Workshop

THE POWER OF MUSIC

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Abstract

Music is irresistible, haunting and unforgettable. It is both a vehicle of expression and an artistic outlet since it can move us to the heights or depths of emotion. It can also enhance language skills and serve as an effective motivation tool. Recent studies have shown that music also enables us to have clearly marked units of perception and meaning at our disposal, which are highlighted by melody, harmony and rhythm. Learning through chunks has been proven to facilitate acquisition as it allows us to make more efficient use of short-term memory through a collection of elements whose strong associations with one another lead to a better internalization of language.

In this workshop, we will reflect upon and explore the benefits of music for language learning. We aim to stir participants to action by engaging them into different activities that will rekindle the spirit of music in them. Music will fill the air and songs will be approached from two different standpoints: lexis and phonology. Within the lexical framework, special attention will be directed to word partnerships, institutionalized utterances and sentence frames and heads. We will also explore how sounds are linked seamlessly in connected speech through liaison, juncture and assimilation processes. We seek to stress the importance of music as an empowering tool both for learners and teachers in the language class.