

Training Program Proposal

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Topic: Applying the new Mediation Descriptors from the CEFR companion volume (2019) into classroom teaching

Preamble:

The CEFR companion volume (2019) ushered in a new paradigm to describe communication competence. Whilst reference is still made to the four skills, the introduction of mediation shifts the focus onto what tasks do language users perform and in what context. A mediator facilitates someone else's understanding. This can be from describing the content of a film, or explaining a series of instructions, to helping people from different language communities understand each other or defusing tensions that have arisen through misunderstandings.

This training program will explore the potential of mediation descriptors as a tool for designing and delivering language teaching.

It will take the form of an asynchronous video-based program supplemented with live seminar style post task sessions. The sessions are practical and focused on the Cuban context. Participants will be encouraged to examine and supplement their own teaching materials. Participants should expect to spend 3 hours of their own time outside the video viewing and discussion components.

The program will explore the following questions:

- **What are the mediation descriptors?**
- **How can the mediation descriptors inform classroom teaching?**
- **How can flipped classroom dynamics be blended with mediation-based activities?**

Participant outputs:

- Mapping grid applying the mediation descriptors to a current syllabus.
- Sample set of materials adapting a current coursebook unit using the mediation descriptors.
- A lesson plan using the adapted materials in a flipped classroom dynamic.

Below is a schema of the proposed program.

Day 1

Topic	Activities	Materials
Exploring the mediation descriptors in the CEFR companion volume.	<p>Video viewing 1 Overview of the mediation descriptors</p> <p>Video viewing 2 How the mediation descriptors relate to the 'traditional' four skills paradigm</p> <p>Task 1 – examining descriptors and deciding on the level.</p> <p>Task 2 selecting descriptors that suit your teaching context.</p> <p>Task 3 Produce a grid for a current syllabus that maps it against the mediation descriptors</p> <p>Live Q&A</p>	<p>Worksheets for task 1</p> <p>Worksheets for task 2</p> <p>A current syllabus framework document</p>

Day 2

Topic	Activities	Materials
Using the mediation descriptors in classroom teaching	<p>Video viewing 1 A task based framework for using the mediation descriptors</p> <p>Video viewing 2 Applying mediation to teaching materials</p> <p>Task 1 Analysis of a coursebook unit in terms of the mediation descriptors</p> <p>Task 2 Produce materials adapting/supplementing the coursebook unit.</p> <p>Live Q&A</p>	<p>Handout of the framework (made available after the video viewing)</p> <p>Template for the analysis of the coursebook unit</p>

Topic 3	Activities	Materials
Expanding on mediation	<p data-bbox="608 255 984 360">Video viewing 1 Flipped classroom without the technology.</p> <p data-bbox="608 398 984 573">Task 3.1. produce a detailed lesson plan for a developing mediation skills in a selected unit for your coursebook or syllabus</p>	Current coursebook that the participant is using.