



Community Involvement in the language classroom

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- ❖ Connection students with the community in a Learner-centered content is a fundamental principle for increasing students' engagement and motivation (Muir 2018).
- ❖ In this workshop, I will discuss the community involvement in the language classroom.
- ❖ I will also provide examples of connecting students with L2 community based on experience in Arabic classes.
- ❖ Participants will have the opportunity to discuss in groups and provide feedback as well as share strategies and activities that they use in their language teaching.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE LANGUAGE CLASSROOM



What strategies and activities do you use for a learner centered classroom?

- ❖ **Use learners' lives and experiences as input**
- ❖ **Create content around topics students are passionate about**
- ❖ **Link your activities to a real-world context**
- ❖ **Use technology**
- ❖ **Give students choices**

**TAKING L2 LEARNING
OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM**

**Activities outside of the classroom vs
Activities inside the classroom**



What are the benefits and disadvantages of using L2 in classroom?



L2 interaction in classroom is great, however:

- ❖ **Students will pick up other students' mistakes**
- ❖ **Students aren't able to correct each other**
- ❖ **They will understand each other because they have the same linguistic background**
- ❖ **Their pronunciation won't improve.**
- ❖ **Using L2 in unreal L2 environment.**

- ❖ **High level of fluency can only come from extended speaking practice. In the classroom students don't have regular contact with native speakers except for their instructor.**



What are the benefits of taking L2 learning outside of the classroom?

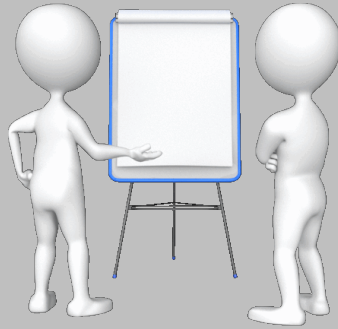
Benefits

- ❖ **Reducing anxiety**
- ❖ **Increasing fluency**
- ❖ **Increasing confidence**
- ❖ **Increasing motivation and attitude toward L2**
- ❖ **Students feel the ownership of a new language**
- ❖ **Working on the correct pronunciation**



Students ability to retrieve L2 in L1 environment will increase with the frequency of their attempts to access it.

GUIDELINES For L2 INTERACTION OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM



How to increase students' interaction and usage of L2 outside of the classroom?

- ❖ Incorporate into the course
- ❖ Use classroom time to help students prepare: group work outside of the classroom.
- ❖ Set up a challenge: an hour of L2 a day.
- ❖ L2 camps
- ❖ Connect with the L2 community in an L1 environment

Connect with the L2 community in an L1 environment

- Prepare student to connect with the community
 - Participate in a fundraising event
 - Service learning
 - Volunteering with local groups or charities



TAKING L2 LEARNING OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM

**Involving the community
Arabic class experience**

➤ **L2 community in an L1 environment**

➤ **L1 community**

➤ **L2 community in an L1 environment**



How to connect students with L2 community?

- ❖ Technology
- ❖ Visiting a house
- ❖ Field trips
- ❖ Guest speaker
- ❖ Volunteer and charity work

TECHNOLOGY

- ❑ Meeting the host family of students who study abroad: Live tour in an Arab country, talk to restaurant towners, shop owners

<https://twitter.com/iaramadan/status/838940289964335105/photo/1>

- ❑ Panels with experts' and individual from many Arab countries

Culture and Language

Visiting a house in the community

فنجان قهوة في بيت عربي

- Meeting individuals with many expertise form the community
- Discussion of nowadays hot topics in an informal setting, cooking, singing
- Culture: Family setting, house decoration, life etiquettes
- Exposing students to different dialects

Dr. Khalf ALharbi

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-4LVzMkWit5dmVr_ii0kgLyJIYIHxFxY

Dr. John Labban

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IIPHpAQyoD3FeM6BPoVE2BuD6OVmh5wn>

Students' reflection

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_7Vx8mc-ZtxPYhxDkVmXPAw6WVUZuT94

Filed trips

- Visiting the Islamic Center during Eid

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1W_cyO_v0pzUTtkl9x2yp84M1GWjLZoZr

- Visiting the Friday or Sunday service

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Rvujf-Ndy0n9VT0HAVvFBUWahl606_GZ

Culture and Language

Guest Speaker

- ❑ Visiting the Islamic Center to talk about women's rights in Islam

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1I-n2zCOhoe84YWuFuHpnyXFYRBizXvUr>

Culture and Language

Volunteer work

- ❑ Salam Community Service, Bloomington.
- ❑ <https://www.flickr.com/photos/141441586@N08/sets/72157686065231362/>
- ❑ <https://twitter.com/KhalafAlnahil/status/983127396781035521>

Case study of Salam community service

- ❑ Practicing language:
 - Listening to a native speaker
 - Interaction with the organizer family
 - Interaction among students (classroom-context)

- ❑ Learning about culture:
 - Teacher-students interaction: informal setting, nicknames
 - Interacting with the organizer family

- ❑ Learning about poverty, diversity and inclusion

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-5GB46f5w1NIs8QMp4y5tyf0vWTR6pXy>

A student reflection

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/13eFauamnMnldconkYyyBxBZBIQCLUGNk/view>

L2 Community involvement influence on students:

- **Motivation**
- **Inclusion**
- **Stereotypes**
- **Trust**

Community involvement influence on community members:

- belonging**
- responsibility**
- trust**
- Promote the school and the program**

➤ **L1 community**

❖ Campus:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/127PDv2EIQUG3CfEzmTQSai6LzSmnGyG0>

❖ Bloomington Community: Nursing home

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1EtMpulplylp6CDN7I4w1nCyR7qXlzGlp>

Schools:

<https://twitter.com/iaramadan/status/866035161791700992/photo/2>

Students:

- **Motivation**
- **Belonging to the community**
- **L1 to L2 (Speaking, writing)**
- **Relation with a non-native speaker instructor and program**

L1 Community:

- **Relation with the university and the language program**
- **Promoting the school and the program**
- **Motivation and trust**

Conclusion

Connecting students with the community is one of the strategies that:

- 1- encourage students to adopt L2 in their everyday communication.
- 2- improve students' conversation skills, increasing vocabulary, learning idioms
- 3- explore the target culture
- 4- Increase students' engagement and motivation.

Students' reflection

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_QUXWAeBbyqf-Q1zuN8CaObFOKZw7IXI/view?ts=5e21bb8f

Community involvement isn't only about language and culture, it is about:

- 1- Learning and caring about a place: Case study: Shalom Center- Nursing home and the mosque
- 2- Creating a responsible citizen
- 3- creating Active learner
- 4- Introducing the school, program to the community
- 5- Encouraging the community, school and organization to contribute to the assessment

REFERENCES

Barker, D. (2004) Encouraging students to take their language learning outside the classroom. JALT Hokkaido Journal.

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<https://www.gettingsmart.com/2017/01/21-tips-connecting-learners-to-community/>

