An exploration of language and culture learning in Dual Language Programs

THATS NOT WHAT I MEANT!
Culture is the field on which language use takes place.
Language as culture:
Where are we in Dual Language Education?

- Defining terms
- Identity, diversity and language
- Language and the global workforce
- The meanings of words
- Communication rules
Intercultural
INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE

Includes: Knowledge—Attitudes—Skills--Awareness

Involves the ability to...

- Establish and maintain relationships
- Communicate with minimal loss or distortion
- Collaborate in order to accomplish something of mutual interest or need.

(Fantini, 2002)
Goals of Dual Language Education

1. Proficiency in English
2. Proficiency in the non-English language
3. Academic proficiency
4. Cross-cultural competence
Personal connections

- Who are your students?
- Who is a Hispanic?
- Hispanic/Latino/Chicano/Neoriquen?
Dimensions of Non-English Language Proficiency, by Generation, in Southern California, 2001–2004

- First Generation (foreign born, immigrated to U.S. before age 13)
- Second Generation (U.S. born, both parents immigrants)
- Second Generation (U.S. born, one immigrant parent)
- Third Generation
- Fourth Generation (and higher)
DL Students: Who are they?

What do our answers mean for developing Intercultural Competence?
The meaning of words

i love you THIS much!

that's not very much...
Communicating Across Languages

- Not just grammar
- Not just false cognates
- Which words do we use?
- Do our words mean the same thing?

What You Heard Is Not What I Meant
What do the words mean?

- Friend
- Love (I love you?)
- Thank you
Professions and Occupations
What the words mean and how we feel about them
US
Most Prestigious Occupations

- Doctor: 88%
- Military officer: 78%
- Firefighter: 76%
- Scientist: 76%
- Nurse: 70%
- Engineer: 69%
- Police officer: 66%
- Priest/Minister/Clergy: 62%
- Architect: 62%
- Teacher: 60%
CHINA
Most Prestigious Occupations

The top 5 occupations with the highest prestige nowadays are:

- Scientific researchers
- College professors
- Engineers
- Doctors
- Lawyers
It’s great to be a teacher!

Highly trained, respected and free: why Finland's teachers are different

Extensive training is the basis for giving teachers the autonomy to work the way they want. The result is a highly prized profession and an education system always near the top in international rankings

David Crouch in Helsinki

Wednesday 17 June 2015 01.00 EDT
1. Doctors
2. Nurses
3. Police
4. Teachers
5. Mechanics
6. Pastors and Priests
7. University Professors
8. Engineers
9. Lawyers
10. Chemists
11. Entrepreneurs
12. Journalists
13. Professional Athletes
14. Officers
15. Bookkeepers
16. Politicians
17. TV Presenters
18. Bankers
What do the words mean?  
An example

- Who owns a cat?
- What ‘personality’ characteristics do you associate with cat?
- How are cat personalities different from dogs or other pets?
"Bad news, its curiosity"
LEARNING
THE RULES OF COMMUNICATION

- Greetings
- How are you?
- Turn taking
- Compliments, complaints
- Intonation
- Extending and accepting invitations
- Tuteo and voseo
- First names, Miss, Doña,
LEARNING THE RULES OF COMMUNICATION

Low Context Vs. High Context Communication In Culture
LEARNING THE RULES OF COMMUNICATION

- Eye contact
- Body language and gestures
- Distance
- Other physical rules?
Personal Experience:
What You Heard Is Not What I Meant

We use the same words to mean different things.

We have the same words but their affect/effect is different.

We follow different rules about communication.
Do people look like their names?

The overall findings also revealed that the participants were able to best match the faces to the names when the faces they looked at came from within their own culture.


Does your language affect your personality?

While writing in Spanish, the Mexican-American subjects talked about themselves in relation to their families, relationships and hobbies. In English, they spoke of their achievements, college, and daily activities.

“The language cannot be separated from the cultural values of that language ... You see yourself through the cultural values of the language you are speaking.”
The People's Daily Online also mistakenly reported an Onion story declaring North Korean leader Kim Jong Un the "sexiest man alive" as fact back in 2012.
Culture is the field on which language use takes place
THINK: What does today’s discussion about the meanings of words and the potential for miscommunication mean for our students as they use their languages out in the ‘real world’ beyond the classroom?

PAIR: In 2-3 sentences, share your reflections with a partner.

SHARE: Write yourself a note about how you may want to follow up when you’re back at school.
QUESTIONS?