Teaching for Transfer of Culture
The Third Pillar of Dual Language Education

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Guiding Questions

- What is cross-cultural competence?
- Why is cross-cultural competence a pillar for dual language education?
- How does cross-cultural competence transfer?
- How do we assess transfer of culture and cross-cultural competencies development?
The Iceberg Analogy of Culture

Parameters of Culture

- The parameters are 25 elements or dimensions that all cultures have in common.

- The parameters are like a musical note played on different instruments: Middle C is the same note but sounds different when played on a clarinet vs. a piano.

- We identify parameters of culture as themes in multicultural literature.

Nelson Brooks 1973
25 Parameters of Culture

- Presence
- Language
- Gesture
- Time Concept
- Space Concept
- Bonding
- Learning
- Health
- Resilience
- Spirit
- Play and Leisure
- Ethics
- Esthetics
- Values

- Religion
- Heroes and Myths
- Sex Roles
- Taboo
- Grooming
- Ownership
- Subsistence
- Precedence
- Ceremony
- Rewards and Privileges
- Rights and Duties
Childhood Messages

Were you sent messages about these aspects of culture:

- Messages about the importance of intelligence? Your ability to solve problems or handle new or difficult situations? About the value of education?
- Messages about religion? About morality, right and wrong?
- Messages about earning money? About having and managing money? About being rich or poor? About a future career?
- Messages about who you should marry or not marry? About the role of women/wives or men/husbands? About children’s role?
- Messages about who is privileged and important? Who goes first or last? Who is rewarded or punished?
- Messages about your own and other ethnic or ancestral group? About loyalties and duties to your group and to others?
Cultural Identity Formation

From Morris, Chui & Liu, 2015 Polycultural Psychology
Multiculturalism

From Morris, Chui & Liu, 2015 Polycultural Psychology
Intercultural Competencies

A Closer Look:

1. Choose one of the intercultural competencies
2. Give yourself a rating
3. Discuss the rationale for your rating with a partner

Are cultural competencies observable?

How does your own evolving intercultural competencies affect or support your students’ cultural proficiency?
Explicit Culture Teaching

- We identify culture universals that are shared by all cultures worldwide.
- We identify ways that the culture universals are expressed or manifested in a particular culture.

Expressions of culture include…
- heroes, myths and legends
- holidays, rituals and celebrations
- proverbs and folk wisdom
- lexical borrowing across cultures
Heroes

Benito Juárez

Abraham Lincoln
Legends and Myths

Paul Bunyan and Babe

La Llorona
Traditional Celebrations
El león no es tan feroz como lo pintan.
Querer es poder.
Con hambre, no hay mal pan.
En tierra de ciegos, el tuerto es rey.
Aunque la mona se vista de seda, mona queda.
Dime con quién andas, y te diré quién eres.
A lo dado, no se le busca lado.

The dog’s bark is worse than its bite.
Where there is a will there is a way.
Any port in a storm.
The blind leading the blind.
The clothes don’t make the man.
You are known by the company you keep.
Don’t look a gift horse in the mouth.
Lexical Borrowing
Spanish Words from Arabic

Words beginning with al = the in Arabic
• almohada, albañil, almacén, almuerzo, alberca, alacrán
  algodón, álgebra, alcohol

Names of places with (guad = river)
• Guadalupe, Guadalaja, Guadalquivir

Expression referring to Ala
• ojalá = from law šhaʿ allāh = "God willing"
Spanish Words from Náhuatl

Foods and food preparation
aguacate, cacahuate, cajeta, camote, chocolate, comal, guacamole, molcajete, nopal, tamal, tomate

Animals
coyote, ocelote, mapache, quetzal, guajolote

Other terms
papalote, cuate, cuete, tianguis, popote
English Words from Greek

Numerical words with prefixes
mono-, di-, tri-, tetra-, penta-, hexa-, hepta, octo-, deca-

Words with Greek prefixes
anti-, auto-, hemi-, hetero- meta-, neo-, pan-, para-, poly-

Most English-Spanish Cognates are etymologically related to Latin and Greek. The meaning of these words originate in these cultures, therefore contributing to cultural transfer.
English Words from Germanic/Anglo-Saxon Roots

**Work:** shepherd, plough, work

**Parts of the body:** heart, knee, foot, elbow

**Animals:** sheep, goat, horse

**Words with –en plurals:** chicken, oxen, children, brethren

**Family relations:** brother, sister, husband, daughter, friend

**Grammatical words:** the, a, and, of, you, us, to, would, under, up
Spanish Words “Borrowed” from English

Sports
béisbol, ampayer, bateador, jonrón, jonronero, nocaut, pitcheo

Foods and kitchen
hamburguesa, panqueques, refrigerador, sandwich

Household
champú, clóset, ziper
English Words “Borrowed” from Spanish

Foods
burrito, chili, vanilla, salsa, taco

Land features
arroyo, canyon, savanna, sierra

Names of geographical places
Colorado, Montana, Nevada

Ranching
bronco, buckaroo, chaps, corral, lariat, lasso, mustang, ranch, remuda, rodeo
Next we will identify parameters of culture that are themes in the book:

“I Love Saturdays y domingos” by Alma Flor Ada

These cultural elements can be discussed, studied and learned as a transfer of culture lesson.
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Nelson Brooks 1973
I Love Saturdays
y domingos

by Alma Flor Ada

illustrated by Elivia Savadier
SPANISH LANGUAGE PEDAGOGY FOR BILITERACY PROGRAMS

Jill Kerper Mora

Go to moramodules.com to purchase the Spanish Language Pedagogy Book Companion Website for $15 for one year access.

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