







Learning about culture through comparison: Creating listening comprehension materials for a content-based English course

Presenter Biography:

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Abstract:

Authentic listening has become a part of the CLIL approach, but it can be difficult to find listening materials that provide an ideal match with language complexity, length requirements, content, and cultural context. The challenge of obtaining appropriate materials led to the idea of creating educational videos for a content-based English course for students of International Relations in Colombia. Foreign students and teachers were interviewed on a number of questions related to the topics covered in class. This session presents a brief overview of current approaches to listening comprehension in CLIL classrooms and a personal experience of designing listening comprehension materials for a content-based language course. It also provides examples of both types of videos (news and video reports from YouTube on the content topics and educational videos recorded for the course) with listening comprehension materials designed for them, discusses the rationale behind the creation of listening materials, and presents information about the steps involved in video recording and decision making during the process. Creating listening materials for a CLIL course presents a number of challenges: pre-recording and logistics; recording and editing; and design of listening comprehension exercises and post-listening discussions. The participants in this session will view sample videos, evaluate designed activities, and compare the advantages and disadvantages of using video reports and news from YouTube on content topic and recorded educational videos in a CLIL classroom. Listening materials tailored for the needs of the course use authentic language and expose listeners to native and non-native pronunciation; they bridge the gap between the concepts studied during the course and local culture, making the learning more meaningful and enjoyable.



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