



II Fórum de Língua Inglesa

Elaboração e Implementação de Currículos



Utilizing Backwards Planning to Develop Content-based Language Learning

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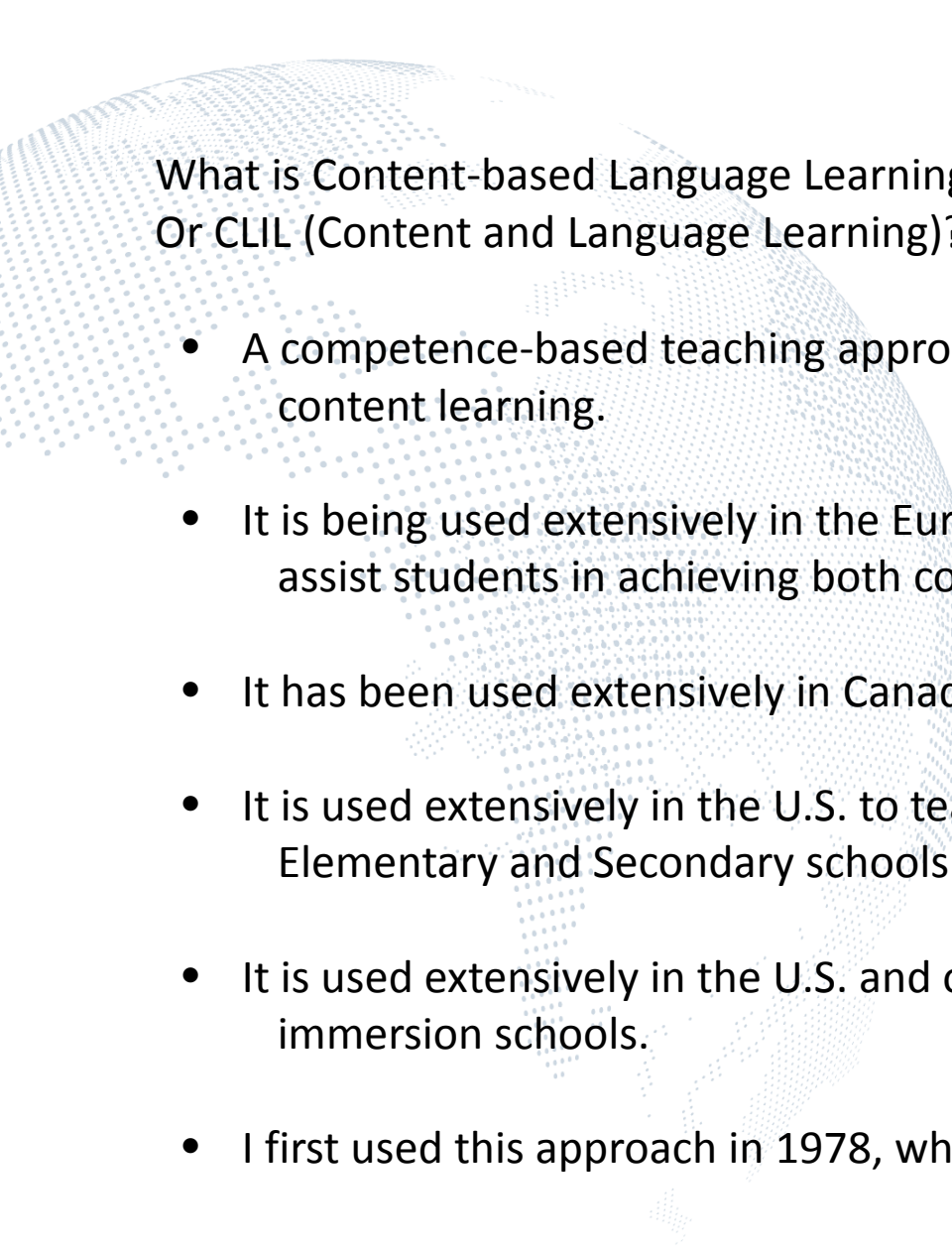


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Today's Agenda:

- What is content-based language learning? And why is it a powerful way to learn?
- Developing language and content area objectives
- Studying a New Standard
- Developing a possible assessment
- Choosing a content area: developing content and language objectives
- Some possible activities



What is Content-based Language Learning? Or CLIL (Content and Language Learning)?

- A competence-based teaching approach that integrates language learning and content learning.
- It is being used extensively in the European Union at university and other levels to assist students in achieving both content and language mastery.
- It has been used extensively in Canada in its' language immersion programs.
- It is used extensively in the U.S. to teach English Learners the content they need in Elementary and Secondary schools.
- It is used extensively in the U.S. and other countries in bilingual or dual language immersion schools.
- I first used this approach in 1978, when I taught ESL in Mexico.

Why use Content to Teach Language?

The purpose of language is communication, whether it is oral or in written form.

- What is the purpose of foreign language study?
- According to the new Brazilian Parametros: *foreign languages are an integral part of essential knowledge that allows students to come to know different cultures and consequently to become part of the globalized world.*
- This Goal is a communicative goal with specific foci—1) knowing different cultures and 2) becoming part of the globalized world.

It is difficult to become a part of that world if your curriculum is grammar-based.

- 1) Knowing different cultures and 2) being a part of the globalized world are a part of the content that must be taught.

Why use content, continued

- Using content to teach language allows students to: read, write, listen to, speak about real life, real content.
- Using content makes the language learning enterprise more purposeful.
- Using content makes language learning more interesting, for both teacher and students.
- Using content makes language learning more practical.
- It puts language in an active and more immediately useful role.
- Using content also makes language more comprehensible— students know what the topic is.
- Using content allows students to connect their language class with their other studies

What is required?

- Curriculum planners, teachers and evaluators must change their paradigm.
- What was once a grammar-based curriculum, must now become an integrated unit of some content area (s) and language.

This new way of thinking requires that:

- 1) Curriculum planners/teachers choose a content area(s).
- 2) That they closely examine the concepts/big ideas in that content area.
- 3) That they closely examine how language is used in this content/field.
- 4) Based on that examination, that they identify particular language structures, vocabulary, used in this content area.
- 5) That they develop content objectives and language objectives that will support learning.



Two Examples of Content-based Language Teaching Units

- 1) 2nd grade unit on Heroes
- 1) Middle school unit on Resiliency



Now it's your turn:

Here is another new standard from the Parametros:

- **Choose the correct register according to the situation, and the vocabulary that reflects the idea intended.**

- 1) Get into groups and reflect on this standard. How will students demonstrate this?
And at what level?
- 2) Choose a content area that you feel is appropriate to the age and backgrounds of your intended students.
- 3) Integrate that content area into the assessment you just developed.
How does the assessment change?
- 4) What is a possible concept/big idea from your chosen content area?

Your work continued

5) Given that concept or big idea, write an objective that helps student move toward the final assessment you developed.

*** Make sure your objective is written with active verbs!!***

6) Given that content objective, develop a language objective that will move students toward the final assessment.

*** Make sure your objective is written with active verbs!!***

7) Think of some integrated activities that would assist students to achieve both objectives.

8) Sequence these activities such that they lead incrementally to the objectives.



Share out

Questions?

Comments?