How plurilingualism contributes to the development of language and subject knowledge in a higher education CLIL classroom.

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The DYLAN project

Aim

- “The DYLAN project will seek to identify the conditions under which Europe's linguistic diversity can be an asset for the development of knowledge and economy.” (www.dylan-project.org)
The DYLAN project

Organisation

- WP1: Companies
- WP2: EU Institutions
- WP3: Educational systems
- WP4: Transversal issues
- WP5: Training
- WP6: Management
Questions: UAB team

- What new (plurilingual) language practices are emerging at higher education institutions in Catalonia (case studies of 2 institutions)?
  » CLIL/ELF classes

- In what ways can plurilingual practices in such classes be linked to the construction of knowledge?
Situating plurilingual interaction

- (Alber & Py, 1986; Lüdi, 1989; et al.)

Unilingual mode: one language

Endolingual mode: No communicative troubles

Bi/Plurilingual mode: two or more languages

Exolingual mode: Communicative troubles
The *integration* of subject and language knowledge

- Nussbaum (2009). (See also Gajo 2006; 2007).

Learning processes **mediated** by activity and by use of foreign language

*Conceptualisation*

Learning processes **remediated** by recourse to other languages when communication problems occur

*Clarification*
Plurilingual interaction and *saturation*

- Gajo & Grobet, 2008:
A case study

• Psychology course taught in English
  – 2/3 ERASMUS students, 1/3 autochthonous students
  – No explicit course plan to integrate language and content

• Case study: The process of preparing a talk in English
  – Reading a scientific article (in English);
  – Group discussion;
  – Re-reading, preparing part of talk individually;
  – Giving a talk in English.

The Relationship Between Career Variables and Occupational Aspirations and Expectations for Australian High School Adolescents
Wendy Patton
Queensland University of Technology
Peter Creed
Griffith University

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
The unilingual final product:

“Aspirations and Expectations”

An excerpt from Gisela’s talk in front of the class

1. Gisela: m:\ (0.78) as we can see in the results: of riasec_ (0.57) ah: categories that were most frequently expect- a: aspirated_ (0.32) by: students were investigative_ (0.48) social and realistic\ (0.72) and the categories that were least aspired by students were enterprising and conventional\ (0.88) a: for expectations happened a: more or less the same ah because the categories that were most expected by students_ (0.57) were social realistic and investigative\ (0.21) but with different percentage\ (0.52) and the categories that were mo: (0.56) hm: less ex- EXPECT by students were conventional\ (0.27) conventional and enterprising\ (0.8) categories\ (0.83)

2. Maria: Gisela\(0.6)
3. Gisela: yes\ (0.32)
4. Maria: can you remind us_ (0.28) what's the difference_ (0.46) between the aspirations_=
5. Gisela: =oh yes!='
6. Maria: =and the expectations\ (0.16)
7. Gisela: aspirations is more idealistic_ (0.72) it's e:h what you aspire to do in:__ (0.53) in your life and expectation is e:h more realistic\ (1.5)
8. Maria: very good\ (1.94)
The plurilingual process:  
*“Aspirations and Expectations”*

Group discussion in the library about the article

1. Gisela: “és que jo XX què és career?” (0.38)
2. Ariadna: o sigui career és la carrera professional (0.03)
3. Gisela: sí sí (0.69) però (0.52) és que l’ocupació (1.61)
4. Ariadna: clar tu dintre de la teva carrera professional tindras diferents- sorry just a [moment]
5. Emine: [nada] pues (0.05)
6. Gisela: [yeah] because I have a ((laughing) difficult [with the:)]
7. Emine: [yeah]
8. Camilla: [laughs]
9. Ariadna: són diferents:
10. Gisela: [lan]guage (0.85)
11. Ariadna: diferents ocupacions vull dir (0.83) jo què sé com la carrera esportiu pues la carrera professional (0.64) és que no sé si entenc molt bé el que m’estás demanant [potser]
12. Gisela: [si si sí] sí sí (0.36) és que no entenc o sigui no entenc la diferència entre (1.45) hm: (0.08) hm: (2.15) és que no em: no em recordo (0.68)
13. Ariadna: entre estatus i jo et l’ocupació=
14. Gisela: =si lo de l’estatus i la aspiration la expectation i tot això (0.51)
15. Ariadna well I think that aspiration is what you want (0.16) and expectation is so:me somehow more realistic what you think you will have (0.12)
16. Gisela: sí it's [more XX]
17. Ariadna: [for example] I wa- my aspiration is to be rich (0.49) Ariadna: but I won't be rich (0.52) so I expect to not be rich (0.57)
18. Emine: yeah (0.12)
19. Ariadna: so perhap- perhaps I can aspire to a: have to be a doctor (0.52) but as my:- I am not studying (0.12) for example I know that I won't be a doctor so I (0.45) I don't expect to be a: doctor (0.48) and they measure (0.28) this (0.53)
20. Gisela: but it's more realistic (0.32) the: the expectations that you [have]
21. Ariadna: [yeah]
22. Gisela: that- than the: (0.24)
23. Ariadna: aspiration [is the ideal-] idealistic [thing]
24. Camilla: [aspirations] (0.32) [like] dreams [yeah]
25. Ariadna: [yeah] (0.08)
The plurilingual process: 

"Aspirations and Expectations"

Re-reading of the article after group work
Conclusions

• Language and content *integrated locally* in group work *interaction* and in the student’s individual work, not as an explicit curricular goal;
  – Language and content intimately linked → Students “naturally” problematise the *discipline specific meaning* of some everyday lexical items;
  – CLIL classrooms are an ideal space for teachers to consider, take advantage of and promote such local integration;

• *Plurilingual mode* may allow *greater saturation* of the subject discipline than does unilingual activity, in which content is simplified;

• *Plurilingual activity* may acts as a type of *scaffolding* for the construction of a *unilingual product*. 