

Dear MEXTESOL Teaching Professionals,

I was surprised and delighted to hear from JoAnn Miller that my article, "Language teaching methods: From the ancient Greeks to Gattegno," published in your journal in 1980, has been selected as a vintage article for republication. I congratulate the MEXTESOL Journal on this initiative and on 37 years of publication!

While I am still pleased with the article as I re-read it, 33 years have passed and much has transpired in our profession in the interim. What I referred to in 1980 as the "Functional/ESP Approach" has evolved into the Communicative Approach with its many permutations and manifestations (Duff, 2014). This approach assumes that the goal of language learning is communication and that we learn to communicate in a second or foreign language by actually communicating with others in the target language.

To support Communicative Language Teaching (CLT), we have new approaches to language analysis: functional grammar, discourse analysis, and corpus linguistics. These approaches examine how language is actually used. We also have a compatible approach to teaching and learning; namely, Constructivism, based on the teachings of Vygotsky (1986), who viewed all learning as an apprenticeship, where novices learn by working alongside more expert users of whatever they are trying to learn to do—in our case, to use a new language.

If you would like to see the most recent incarnation of my reprinted 1980 paper, please see Celce-Murcia (2014). As you can see, my fascination with this topic has not subsided since I first presented my research at your conference and then published it in your journal.

Cordially yours and best wishes,
Marianne Celce-Murcia, Professor Emerita
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References

- Celce-Murcia, M. (2014). An overview of language teaching approaches. In M. Celce-Murcia, D. Brinton, & M.A. Snow (Eds.) *Teaching English as a second or foreign language*, 4th Edition, pp. 2-14. Boston, MA: National Geographic Learning/ Heinle Cengage Learning.
- Duff, P.A. (2014). Communicative language teaching. In M. Celce-Murcia, D. Brinton, & M.A. Snow (Eds.) *Teaching English as a second or foreign language*, 4th edition, pp. 15-30. Boston, MA: National Geographic Learning / Heinle Cengage Learning.
- Vygotsky, L.S. (1986). *Thought and language* (A. Kozulin, Trans.), Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. (Originally published in 1962).