

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

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Teaching French as a Foreign Language in an Academic Context: Discrepancies Between L1 and L2 - Reflections and Methods

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There are many reasons why students learn French in an academic context: the need for an additional foreign language for their higher studies, the need for general academic credits, personal needs or as part of the standard curriculum of any French Studies Department. FFL courses can therefore serve a heterogeneous audience with mixed reasons and motivations. Students are not always aware of the pitfalls that await them in learning the French language. The geographical context and the language(s) of the country and the differences between French and the local language(s) vary to different degrees. The differences can be minor (for example between a Romance L1 to another Romance L2), or major (for example, if the L1 is a Balto-Slavic, Hellenic, Semitic language, etc.).

Some examples: As far as the temporal system is concerned, the perception and learning of the French indicative tenses are problematic for learners whose source language has a morphologically reduced temporal or aspectual system. Prepositions, when lexically or syntactically conditioned, may not coincide with logic in L1 and thus become a real obstacle. Moreover, if French requires replacing the spatial adverbial phrase by the neutral pronoun "y" in answer to the question « Allez-vous au cinéma? » /« Oui, j'y vais », it won't work the same way in other languages, including English ("Are you going to the cinema?"/"Yes, I'm going"/"Yes, I am"). Another example concerns possessive adjectives which in French agree in gender and number with the object and not with the possessor, which is not always the case for other languages.

These examples, which do not pretend to be exhaustive, illustrate the various discrepancies that may exist between L1 and L2. In addition to the topic concerning the gap between L1 and L2, we are also interested in teaching methods and learning strategies, as well as in the motivation to use them in the constraints of an academic context.

Submission of papers

Contributions will be delivered in French or English and will include between 20000 and 35000 signs, spaces and bibliography included.

The contributions will be submitted before December 31st, 2018 to the following address: Methodal4@gmail.com. All proposals will be anonymously peer reviewed.

Proposal Submission Procedure

1. Open the folder "*My Proposal.doc*"
2. Copy and paste the text of your paper into this document making sure you follow the required format.
3. Rename "*My Proposal.doc*" using your first and last name, e.g. John Smith.doc
4. Save and submit the document.

Important dates:

Submission: before December 31st, 2018

Committee's decision announcement: July 31st, 2019

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