Community Involvement in the language classroom

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Connection students with the community in a Learner-centered content is a fundamental principle for increasing students' engagement and motivation (Muir 2018).

In this workshop, I will discuss the community involvement in the language classroom.

I will also provide examples of connecting students with L2 community based on experience in Arabic classes.

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss in groups and provide feedback as well as share strategies and activities that they use in their language teaching.
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE LANGUAGE CLASSROOM
What strategies and activities do you use for a learner centered classroom?
❖ Use learners’ lives and experiences as input
❖ Create content around topics students are passionate about
❖ Link your activities to a real-world context
❖ Use technology
❖ Give students choices
TAKING L2 LEARNING OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM
Activities outside of the classroom vs Activities inside the classroom
What are the benefits and disadvantages of using L2 in classroom?
L2 interaction in classroom is great, however:

- Students will pick up other students’ mistakes
- Students aren’t able to correct each other
- They will understand each other because they have the same linguistic background
- Their pronunciation won’t improve.
- Using L2 in unreal L2 environment.
High level of fluency can only come from extended speaking practice. In the classroom students don’t have regular contact with native speakers except for their instructor.
What are the benefits of taking L2 learning outside of the classroom?
Benefits

- Reducing anxiety
- Increasing fluency
- Increasing confidence
- Increasing motivation and attitude toward L2
- Students feel the ownership of a new language
- Working on the correct pronunciation
Students ability to retrieve L2 in L1 environment will increase with the frequency of their attempts to access it.
GUIDELINES For L2 INTERACTION OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM
How to increase students’ interaction and usage of L2 outside of the classroom?
● Incorporate into the course
● Use classroom time to help students prepare: group work outside of the classroom.
● Set up a challenge: an hour of L2 a day.
● L2 camps
● Connect with the L2 community in an L1 environment
Connect with the L2 community in an L1 environment
- Prepare student to connect with the community
  - Participate in a fundraising event
  - Service learning
  - Volunteering with local groups or charities
TAKING L2 LEARNING OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM

Involving the community
Arabic class experience
- L2 community in an L1 environment
- L1 community
L2 community in an L1 environment
How to connect students with L2 community?
- Technology
- Visiting a house
- Field trips
- Guest speaker
- Volunteer and charity work
Meeting the host family of students who study abroad: Live tour in an Arab country, talk to restaurant towners, shop owners
https://twitter.com/iaramadan/status/838940289964335105/photo/1

Panels with experts’ and individual from many Arab countries

Culture and Language
Visiting a house in the community

- Meeting individuals with many expertise form the community
- Discussion of nowadays hot topics in an informal setting, cooking, singing
- Culture: Family setting, house decoration, life etiquettes
- Exposing students to different dialects
Dr. Khalf ALharbi

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-4LVzMkWit5dmVr_ii0kgLyJIYIHXFxY
Dr. John Labban

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1lIPHpAQyoD3FeM6BPoVE2BuD6OVmh5wn
Students’ reflection

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_7Vx8mc-ZtxPYhxDkVmXPAw6WVUZuT94
Filed trips

- Visiting the Islamic Center during Eid
  https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1W_cyO_v0pzUTtkl9x2yp84M1GWjLZoZr

- Visiting the Friday or Sunday service
  https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Rvujf-Ndy0n9VT0HAVvFBUWahl606_GZ

Culture and Language
Guest Speaker

- Visiting the Islamic Center to talk about women’s rights in Islam

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1I-n2zCOhoe84YWuFuHpnyXFYRBlzXvUr

Culture and Language
Volunteer work

- Salam Community Service, Bloomington.
  
  - https://www.flickr.com/photos/141441586@N08/sets/72157686065231362/
  - https://twitter.com/KhalafAlnahil/status/983127396781035521
Case study of Salam community service

- Practicing language:
  - Listening to a native speaker
  - Interaction with the organizer family
  - Interaction among students (classroom-context)

- Learning about culture:
  - Teacher-students interaction: informal setting, nicknames
  - Interacting with the organizer family

- Learning about poverty, diversity and inclusion

https://drive.google.com/drivefolders/1-5GB46f5w1NIs8QMp4y5tyf0vWTR6pXy
A student reflection

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13eFauamnMnlconkYyyBXBZBQCLUGNk/view
L2 Community involvement influence on students:

- Motivation
- Inclusion
- Stereotypes
- Trust
Community involvement influence on community members:

- belonging
- responsibility
- trust
- Promote the school and the program
L1 community
Campus:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/127PDv2E1QUG3CfEzmTQSai6LzSmnGyG0

Bloomington Community: Nursing home
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1EtMpuIplyIp6CDN7I4w1nCyR7qXlzGlp

Schools:
https://twitter.com/iaramadan/status/866035161791700992/photo/2
Students:

- Motivation
- Belonging to the community
- L1 to L2 (Speaking, writing)
- Relation with a non-native speaker instructor and program
L1 Community:

- Relation with the university and the language program
- Promoting the school and the program
- Motivation and trust
Conclusion

Connecting students with the community is one of the strategies that:

1- encourage students to adopt L2 in their everyday communication.
2- improve students’ conversation skills, increasing vocabulary, learning idioms
3- explore the target culture
4- Increase students’ engagement and motivation.
Students’ reflection

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_QUXWAeBbyqf-Q1zuN8CaObFOKZw7IXI/view?ts=5e21bb8f
Community involvement isn’t only about language and culture, it is about:

1- Learning and caring about a place: Case study: Shalom Center- Nursing home and the mosque
2- Creating a responsible citizen
3- creating Active learner
4- Introducing the school, program to the community
5- Encouraging the community, school and organization to contribute to the assessment
REFERENCES


