



Key issue of the 3rd conference

EDUCATIONAL ROLE OF LANGUAGE – How do we understand it?

Major themes and exemplary questions:

1. LANGUAGE BELIEFS / potential of language for general education and special education

What theories and studies shape your understanding of the educational role of language?

To what extent is your (school's/country's) approach to the ERL determined culturally and/or socially?

How can the educational potential of language be viewed in qualitative and quantitative terms?

What language beliefs does your (school's/country's) educational system rest on and promote?

2. LANGUAGE ACTIVITY / oracy, literacy, language skills, mediation

What concepts and findings drive and support your students' language-based practices?

How strong is the relationship between students' language activity and their cultural background?

What is the treatment of oracy, literacy, language skills and mediation across different subjects?

What language activity do we view as particularly conducive to development & learning and why?

3. LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE / personal experiencing of language

Which educational events and methods affect the way students feel about their language(s)?

What is social, cultural, national and personal component of the affective side of language use?

To what extent does the personal experiencing of language fall to qualitative & quantitative studies?

What (intercultural/multilingual) language experience is fostered by your (school's/country's) educational system?

4. LANGUAGE MATRICES / students' language image of the world

What language images and representations are recommendable for educational purposes?

What categories do we apply across states to describe students' image of the world?

How conscious are students of how language shapes their world outlook and educational success?

What language matrices underlie your (school's/country's) educational system?