

When does/should intercultural
communication include being
critical?

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Tackling the water crisis

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TEACHING Intercultural Citizenship Across the Curriculum: THE ROLE OF LANGUAGE EDUCATION



Criticality

- Critical cultural awareness

= politische Bildung & savoir s'engager

OED:

Critical =

1. Given to judging; esp. given to adverse or unfavourable criticism; fault-finding, censorious
2. Involving or exercising careful judgement or observation; nice, exact, accurate, precise, punctual.**[Obsolete]**

Judgement

- OED
- to form an opinion or **conclusion** about (a person or thing), especially following careful consideration or deliberation; to assess, **evaluate**, or appraise.
- Evaluate – with reference to (explicit) criteria - but which?

“What we ought to/should do ...”

- You cannot get an ‘ought’ from an ‘is’ ...
- Ought’/should is derived from axiomatic criteria
- Students make judgements and recommendations ...

Criticality directed outwards and inwards

Criticality becomes 'engagement'

- guided by axioms of my/our creed [beliefs]

internal coherence of my/our creed

- 'I believe in the rights of the individual, and I believe in the maintenance of a strong society.'
- In conflict. How do I resolve the conflict?
- The golden rule (?)

Moral judgements in language teaching

- Explain the perspective of others ...

→ moral relativism?
 - “Universalism is relative” - ‘western’ ...
 - “Relativism is pluralist”
[and convenient]

- Moral diversity and pluralism exist
- But acknowledging this does not mean abstaining from judgement – a non sequitur...
- Universalism is negotiable

and the classroom?

- “Well, when we were in the first year, Miss said
- The responsibilities Miss has ...

Ethical matters

- Critical cultural awareness *should* become 'engagement'

= a professional creed ...

What position does 'Miss' take?

- Neutral
- Balance ... (including own position)
- Commitment ...

Transformation and informed consent?

- Transformation into the unknown ...
- Risk in engagement outside the classroom

and professional identity

- I am a language teacher!
 - Is this language teaching?
 - CLIL in the language classroom
 - Language teaching should (!) have educational value
 - A leap of faith
- to become a teacher of intercultural citizenship - a language teacher+

Select bibliography

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