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Love Your Neighbor as Yourself: Learning from Award-Winning Second Language College Teachers

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Love Your Neighbor as Yourself: Learning from Award-Winning Second Language College Teachers

Abstract

What can we learn from award-winning second language teachers so that we can serve the students at our Christian institutions better? A wide spectrum of college teachers was interviewed about their perspectives on the qualities needed to excel, their classroom practices, and their theories of teaching and learning.

Keywords

second language acquisition, language teachers, excellence, expertise

Disciplines

Christianity | Higher Education | Language and Literacy Education

Comments

Presented at the 27th Annual Christian Association of World Languages Conference, held April 6-8, 2017, at Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa.

***LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF:
LEARNING FROM AWARD-WINNING
SECOND LANGUAGE COLLEGE
TEACHERS***

LEENDERT VAN BEEK

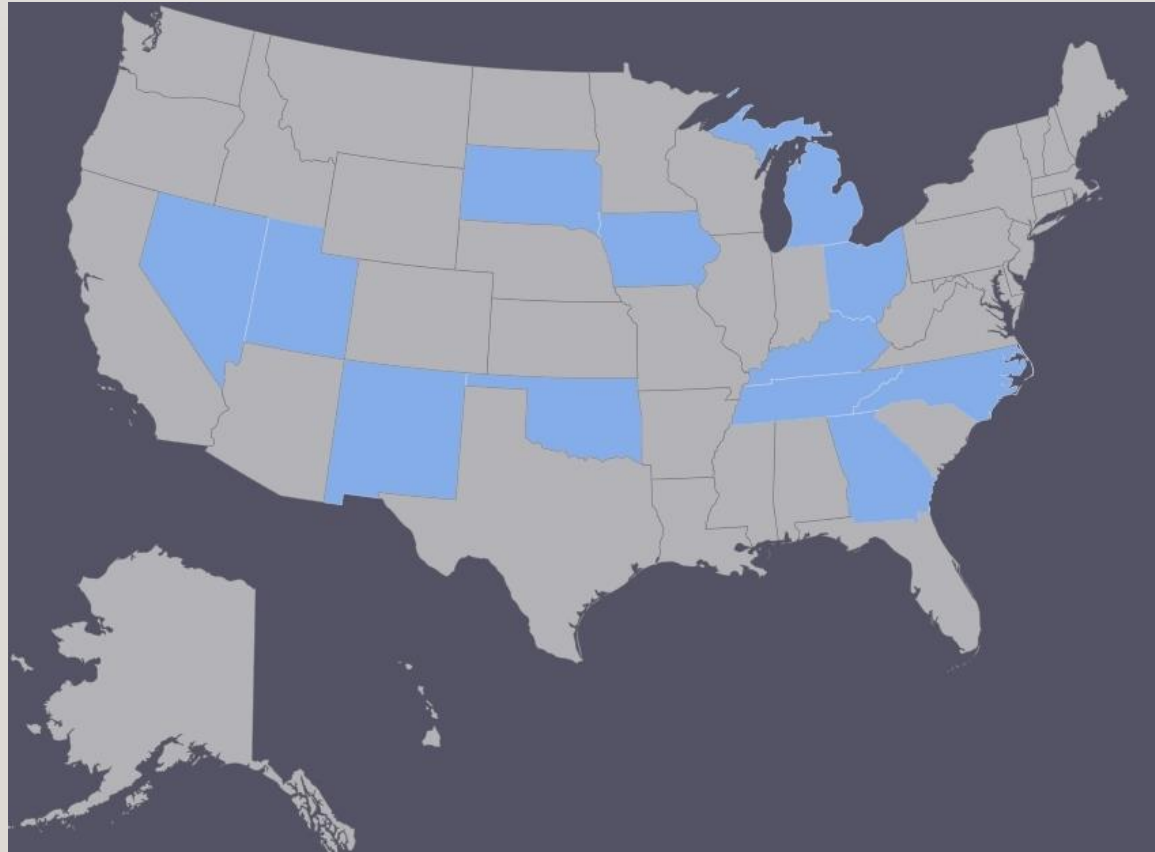
PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH

To identify, describe, and understand the perspectives award-winning second language college teachers have regarding their qualities, practices, philosophies of teaching, and theories of language learning.

SAMPLING

- *sampling method:* purposeful sampling
- *recruitment:* 70 award winners received an invitation via email
- *sample size:* 16 participants
- *languages:* Chinese, French, German, Italian, Latin, and Spanish

STATES OF THE 16 PARTICIPANTS



DATA COLLECTION

All data were collected through semi-structured interviews. The participants had received the open-ended interview questions a few days prior to their interview. All interviews were audio-recorded with permission and lasted about 45 minutes each.

DATA ANALYSIS

All interviews were transcribed verbatim and reviewed by the participants before analysis. Recurring patterns were studied on three levels:

- open coding,
- axial coding,
- construction of themes.

PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH

To identify, describe, and understand the perspectives award-winning second language college teachers have regarding their (1) qualities, (2) practices, (3) philosophies of teaching, and (4) theories of language learning.

INTERVIEW QUESTION I

What are, in your opinion, the qualities needed to excel as a second language teacher at this institution?

WATCH OUT!



WHAT ARE, IN YOUR OPINION, THE QUALITIES NEEDED TO EXCEL AS A SECOND LANGUAGE TEACHER AT THIS INSTITUTION?

- *loving one's neighbor*
- *having expertise in the language taught*
- *being well-versed in second language pedagogy*
- *practicing self-reflection*
- *being committed to lifelong learning*
- *being actively engaged in scholarship*

INTERVIEW QUESTION 2

What classroom practices do you use that are conducive to student learning and to teaching excellence?

A STUDENT-CENTERED CLASS...



WHAT CLASSROOM PRACTICES DO YOU USE THAT ARE CONDUCTIVE TO STUDENT LEARNING AND TO TEACHING EXCELLENCE?

- *the use of technology in the classroom*
- *enhancing student motivation*
- *facilitating a student-centered class*
- *providing timely and adequate feedback*
- *the use of humor*

INTERVIEW QUESTION 3

What are the philosophies of teaching that you support in your instruction?

DIFFERENT CULTURES...



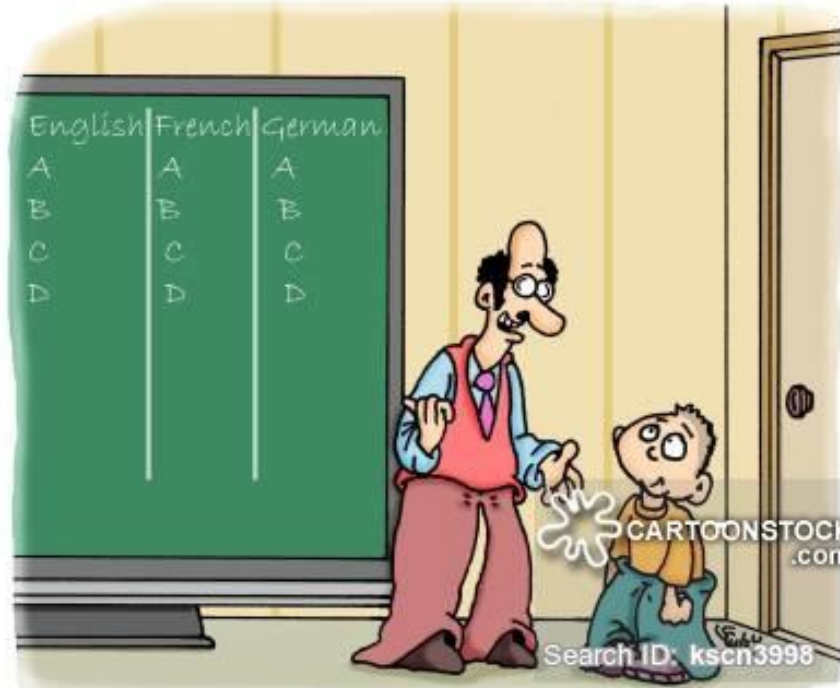
WHAT ARE THE PHILOSOPHIES OF TEACHING THAT YOU SUPPORT IN YOUR INSTRUCTION?

- *standards set by teachers' associations*
- *cultural sensitivity in one's teaching*
- *the use of comprehensible input*
- *an emphasis on improving communication*

INTERVIEW QUESTION 4

What theories of language learning do you believe in?

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?



"WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? LOOK, IT'S EASY
TO LEARN FOREIGN LANGUAGES!"

WHAT THEORIES OF LANGUAGE LEARNING DO YOU BELIEVE IN?

- one-size-does-not-fit-all approach*
- learning through experience*
- self-directed learning*
- organized chaos in the class*

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

- ❖ with students of the award winners
- ❖ similar study in another part of the world
- ❖ online second language programs
- ❖ guidelines on how to teach similar content to different age groups
- ❖ principles of second language acquisition

ANY QUESTIONS?

This is your chance!