Implementing Co-Teaching in Undergraduate EFL/ESL Classes: Challenges, Implications, and Practicality

By: K. Derakhshan

Islamic Azad University

Iran

1/20

This presentation includes:

- **♦** A brief overview of the past
- A glimpse of what we have done
- Considerations for the future

An Overview of the Past

- History of Co-Teaching
 - * Equality of educational opportunity for all learners

* No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

What is Co-Teaching?

- Active involvement in :
 - * Planning
 - * Organization
 - * Instruction
 - * Assessment
- Shared responsibility
 - * Classroom management

Co-Teaching Models

- A plethora of models ,
- Numerous classifications: 4, 5, 6, 7
- Different names,
- Similar practices,
- Similar/different objectives

Model 1: Supportive Co-Teaching

Teachers take turns as instructor and helper:

Easy and highly practical.

Applicability:

When all students must learn the same curriculum

Model 2: Parallel Co-Teaching

Different groups in the same classroom,
Simultaneous delivery of content information,
Ideal for teachers with different teaching styles,
The same lesson can be taught in different ways.

Model 3: Complementary Co-Teaching

- * Rather complicated,
- *Requires a great deal of pre-planning,
- *Calls for extensive coordination,
- *Each instructor must supplement for the instruction provided by the other.

Model 4: Team-Teaching

- Both teachers have a lead role,
- They must know each other's strengths & weaknesses,
- Communication between them is of crucial importance,
- Class size is important;
- More efficient in classes with fewer students,
- Can be extremely rewarding.

Model 5: Station Teaching

- Students rotate through predetermined stations,
- Each teacher works with all the students as they come to the station.

Co-Teaching in EFL/ESL Contexts

Goes back to 70s and 80s

- An increase in ESL population with limited English proficiency,
- Huge challenge for mainstream teachers.

Co-Teaching in Higher Education

Recommended in teacher-training programmes

HOWEVER

They acquired a superficial understanding

WHY?

Professors lack adequate, practical experience with Co-Teaching

Method

- Participants :
- Male and female students studying English translation
 - or literature;
- Age range: 19 to 28

Course Description

- Essay Writing;
- > 15 sessions, 90 minutes each;
- Once a week

Process

- Introducing Co-Teaching to class on the first session
- Equal roles no leading instructor
- Flexible instruction

Data Collection and Analysis

- Abbreviated Version of the Grounded Theory
- A holistic evaluation of Co-Teaching
- Comprehensive participant survey
- Five open-ended questions
- Data analysis, following coding and constant comparative analysis

Results

- A. Participants' perception of Co-Teaching:
- Highly effective in:
- Enhancing their learning in general
- And their writing skill in particular.

Results (cont'd)

- B. Active learning environment
- > Increased class attendance
- Better performances
- Higher grades

Challenges

- * Time-consuming planning and design
- Complexity of the process
- Lack of administrative support

Suggestions

- Collect info on Co-Teaching
- Define your goals and expectations
- Designate Planning time / once a week at least
- SUPPORT YOUR CO-TEACHER

THANK YOU!



Molte Grazie!