



Glottodrama: Be Yourself in Every Language

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Learning new languages means meeting other cultures tasting a different way to be yourself without losing any aspect of your personality. According to our opinion the best teaching choice to reach this goal is the pedagogical adoption of a communicative approach with a humanistic-affective orientation. The student should be completely involved in the learning process, including the emotional and physical sphere and not only the mind. This holistic assumption inspired us in creating the Glottodrama method.

Glottodrama is an innovative methodology for language teaching that integrates the communicative approach with Drama resources and techniques

The pedagogical potential of Drama in language teaching has been exploited by various methodologies, but often these experiences have been carried out without the support of theatre professionals. The most common fault is to undervalue the acting aspects, favoring instead the formal linguistic aspects in communication. Our idea is to focus on key acting aspects as voice pitching, diction, gestures etc. to increase the ability to perform linguistic acts appropriate to real situations including paralinguistic and non verbal aspects.

Glottodrama is a methodology that can be applied to the majority of current teaching contexts. It can be integrated with existing teaching courses or stand alone as an autonomous methodology. It requires two teachers (Language and Drama), a previous teachers' training and rich pedagogical materials to provide a sound point of reference for tutors. All of that in a standard classroom arranging the space in the style of a Drama workshop with any need for sophisticated equipments.

The initial project, financed in 2007 by the EU Lifelong Learning Programme, was run by a consortium coordinated by Novacultur and targeted Italian language.

The first objectives of the project have been the creation, experimentation and scientific formalization of a methodology that, according to the CEFR indicators, could be able to clearly illustrate theoretical bases, application rules and goals. Due to its excellent results in terms of improvement of language skills, the Glottodrama Project was awarded in 2010 with the European Language Label.

Then, with a new Dissemination Project funded by the Lifelong Learning Programme, we started to spread out information about the method and we extended the experiment to new countries. Thanks to this action, the Glottodrama network has increased its members and today involves up 8 countries: Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey.

Our training centre has been training so far hundreds of teachers coming from many European countries to attend the seminars on Glottodrama methodology. In addition our long term development plan envisages the transfer of this innovation in other countries to teach the local language both as FL and as L2. The next targeted languages are the ones spoken in consortium but other languages will be involved in the near future. Moreover in 2013 we will start the set up of an international association to gather all the educational professionals and institutions interested in this promising field: EATALL, European Association for Theater and Drama Applied to Language Learning.