

2nd Experimental Lyceum of Athens
Erasmus+, KA2, 2015-2016, 2016-2017

Intellectual output

French class

Teacher: Marita Loli

During the school year 2015-2016, within the framework of the European Programme KA2 «*We can do it together*», 20 10th grade students of the 2nd Experimental Lyceum of Athens (1st grade of Lyceum according to the Greek education system) have worked collaboratively in French language course (French as a foreign language) in order to improve their speaking and writing skills.

This class was composed of students belonging to different linguistic levels of french ranging from A1 to B2 of the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). This is a typical case in the Greek educational system because students in the greek Lyceum can choose only one foreign language (between French, English and German) and they have different linguistic backgrounds. Consequently, the teachers of foreign languages at this grade they have to deal with multi-level classrooms. This particular classroom as defined above, could be a challenge for the teacher of the foreign language and the peer learning could help students to improve their skills.

During all the school year, students of this class have worked in groups of varying levels. They did various group activities. The idea was that the students of a higher level could supervise and help the students of a lower level of learning french.

We will mention here an example of this learning approach.

The students saw the french documentary film «*Sur le Chemin de l' école*» («*On the way to school*»), 75 minutes. In this Pascal Plisson's documentary, we can follow four kids heading to school in the four corners of the globe. The students saw the film with subtitles in greek in order that all of them could follow without problems of understanding.

In groups of four, after watching the film, they had to fill out some papers. These papers were related with the 4 protagonists: their life, their activities, their obstacles to overcome as they trek to class across a variety of landscapes on four separate continents.

The students were motivated to work because this documentary film was interesting for them. Each of the five groups was composed of two students with higher level of french (B2) and two of a lower level (A1 – A2). In the first 2 meetings we have watched the film (2 sessions of 45 minutes each) and discussed in french about the protagonists. Each group has chosen its favorite person. In the third meeting they filled out a paper about their life, activities and obstacles. Each group has presented to the other groups its preferable person. Each member of the group had its own duty : the

students with a higher performance of speaking skills, they did the presentation and they also helped the others to write down the information they needed. In the fourth meeting the groups wrote down a presentation of the person they had chosen. The idea was always the same: the students with the higher performance in writing, were supposed to help their classmates, members of their group.

We could say that the students were happy because they all could understand and participate without problems to the lesson. They have mentioned that this procedure gave them the opportunity to participate in the oral as well as in the writing activities, in spite of all their difficulties. They have also mentioned that they have worked well in their groups and they have developed a good relationship with their peers. We could also say that students became partners in learning. It seems that they have all participated in an active way and they were involved in all activities.

As a conclusion, we could say that methods based on peer learning can be very helpful for the courses of foreign language especially for multi-level classrooms.