

Canberra Region Languages Forum Update

August 2014

1. ANU LANGUAGE TEACHING FORUM: PERSIAN LANGUAGE ONLINE - OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Wednesday 6 August 2014, 4.15 – 5.15 pm
- Al Falasi Theatre, CAIS, Building 127, Ellery Crescent, ANU

Digital learning, whether online, offline, or a blend, has become a major debate for universities worldwide and challenged the traditional model of university instruction. In 2013, the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies (CAIS) at ANU began to teach Persian and Arabic online. What model was adopted and why?

How can technology simplify, create and deepen the language learning experience and instil cultural appreciation and affection at the same time as developing verifiable linguistic knowledge and skill? What was the student experience and how did students perform? Come along to find out and join in the discussion.

This is one of a series of free public seminars in the ANU Language Teaching Forum.

For more information and to join the mailing list for future talks, contact

- Dr Gabriele Schmidt, gabriele.schmidt@anu.edu.au
- Dr Duck-Young Lee, duck-young.lee@anu.edu.au
- Ms France Meyer, france.meyer@anu.edu.au

2. AUSTRALIAN K-10 CURRICULUM FOR CHINESE, FRENCH, INDONESIAN AND ITALIAN NOW ONLINE

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has announced that the Australian Curriculum for Chinese, French, Indonesian and Italian for Foundation (Kindergarten) to Year 10 is now available for use in schools. For more details see <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/languages/preamble>.

The Chinese curriculum has three learner pathways: for second language learners and background language learners for K to 10, and for first language learners in Years 7–10.

Still under development are curricula for Arabic, German, Japanese, Korean, Modern Greek, Spanish and Vietnamese, plus the Framework for Aboriginal Languages and Torres Strait Islander Languages. Arabic and Vietnamese will be geared towards learners with some background in the language while the remainder are pitched to second language learners.

Funding for five additional languages – Turkish, Hindi, AUSLAN, and Classical Greek and Latin – has been provided by the Australian Government.

3. TWO ARTICLES OF INTEREST

How we kill languages and fail our cleverest children, Misty Adoniou, University of Canberra.

While many children in Australia enter kindergarten with a sound early knowledge of a language other than English “and the cognitive stimulation that derives from knowledge of a second language ... this potential [is] rarely realised; their knowledge of their home language is usually neglected, and becomes stunted over time. Instead, it should be cultivated, as part of these students' academic learning”. The author goes on to outline some ways that this could be done, including:

- bilingual education programs,
- specialist language teachers in primary schools to advise classroom teachers

- teaching assistants who speak students' home languages
- working with parents to support home language learning
- linking families to community language schools.

“At the same time, teacher educators should be building home language awareness into courses, across all subject areas. Taken together, these measures are likely to encourage bilingual students to pursue formal languages studies in later years, to build students' self-esteem, to sustain children's bonds with their parents, and to develop a valuable economic resource.”

For copy of full article <http://theconversation.com/how-we-kill-languages-and-fail-our-cleverest-children-29137>

The Importance of Literacy in the Home Language: The View From Australia, Susana Eisenclas, Andrea Schalley and Diana Guillemin, School of Languages and Linguistics at Griffith University, Brisbane.

The authors investigate the impact of (il)literacy in the home language on the academic, affective, and social development of bilingual/multilingual children. They propose adapting classroom programs to help communities, families and educators at the local level to strengthen students' home-language literacy and proficiency in order to improve overall literacy and academic outcomes for Australian home-language speakers.

For copy of full article <http://sgo.sagepub.com/content/3/4/2158244013507270>

4. INDONESIAN LANGUAGE EVENING CLASSES IN CANBERRA

Weekly evening classes for adults 7 – 9pm in a residence with classrooms in O'Malley at Advanced, Intermediate, Continuing Beginners and Beginners from Novice to level 3. Classes taught by trained teachers who are native speakers

For more information contact Phil Domasch at pdomasch@iinet.net.au (or Jenny at [jenny at jenny_jakarta_indo_adventures@windowslive.com](mailto:atjenny_jakarta_indo_adventures@windowslive.com) if before 4 August) or telephone 6288 8640

5. LOVE 2 READ and THE READING HOUR

- Share a book with a child for 10 minutes a day – one hour a week – and give them the gift of reading.
- Take part in the reading hour, Tuesday 19 August, 6pm – 7pm

Reading in any language can help literacy skills in English. It also strengthens and develops the other language/s involved - reading aloud and talking about books exposes children to more diverse vocabulary, ideas and language structures than many other situations. Visit www.love2read.org.au for ideas about discovering and rediscovering the joy of reading and how to get involved in reading hour events.

To read along with a book in Mandarin, tune in to community radio 2XX (98.3FM) at 6.30-7pm on Friday nights. This Friday (1 August), you can hear the Chinese version of 'Go to sleep, Russell the Sheep' by Rob Scotton 小羊睡不着. For more information and details of future programs see <http://learningmandarin.weebly.com/weekly-radio-show.html>

6. SKYPE PROMISES TO BREAK THE LANGUAGE BARRIER?

See a demonstration of skype-based interpreting of a simple conversation between an English speaker and a German speaker at <http://techday.com/the-channel/news/microsoft-breaks-language-barrier-with-skype-demo/188237/>

7. ACT BRANCH OF THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS (AUSIT) - NAATI Revalidation Issues and AGM

- Saturday, 16 August 2014
- Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre, Level 2, North Building, 180 London Circuit, Canberra

Members: Free, Non-Members and students \$10

2pm – 3pm: Seminar on NAATI Revalidation Issues

Katrin Matthews, the NAATI Revalidation Officer, and John Beever, NAATI CEO, will answer practitioners' questions about revalidation. John Beever will also talk about future directions for NAATI. Attendees are asked to review the Revalidation section on the NAATI website (www.naati.com.au/Revalidation.html) and bring any questions they wish to discuss.

3pm – 4.30pm ACT Branch AUSIT AGM

Contact Mécia Freire at mecia.freire@bigpond.com for more information

Register online by 4pm Friday 15 August at

http://ausit.org/AUSIT/Events/Events_Calendar/AUSIT/Events/Events_Calendar.aspx?hkey=2ed7ca31-e28e-4d27-ac32-46b786d90ea0

FEEDBACK ON THESE UPDATES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME.

Copies of previous Forum Updates are available at

<http://canberralanguages.blogspot.com/p/forum-updates.html>