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50 word summary:

Teaching interaction patterns: Exploring new learning targets.

This hands-on workshop introduces a new approach to teaching interaction patterns (e.g., conversation openings, compliment responses, requests). It includes: presentation of research background, guided group work to identify specific learning targets, presentation of sample teaching units and best practices. It is aimed at teachers of different languages, including FL/ESL/EFL.

Accepted Submission:

Teaching interaction patterns: Exploring new learning targets.

This workshop introduces interaction patterns as a new learning target for the foreign/second language classroom. This includes action formats and culturally shaped interaction patterns, such as conversation openings/closings, compliment responses, requests, and apologies. This workshop is aimed at teachers of different languages, including teachers of FL/ESL/EFL.

In the past ten years, a growing body of empirical classroom research on teaching interaction has emerged, providing both theoretical and empirical footing (Kasper/Rose, 1999, 2003; Kramsch, 1998; Dervin/Liddicoat, 2013; Liddicoat/Scarino, 2013). There is also a strong interest in developing concrete materials to teach interaction patterns and intercultural competencies in the profession (Barraja-Rohan, 1997; Betz/Huth, 2014).

This hands-on workshop shows how this can be approached by illustrating two crucial steps: identifying specific learning targets and sequencing teaching units that are based on empirical research. The workshop consists of three parts:

(1) brief presentation of research background and core concepts in understanding spoken interaction (drawing from SLA and pedagogy research as well as empirical conversation analytic work)
(2) guided group work to explore three learning targets using examples from three different languages (e.g., English, German, Farsi), and discussion of findings
(3) presentation of sample teaching units for different learners (e.g., Mandarin-speaking ELLs, learners of German as a FL) and best teaching practices

Participants will receive take-home resources and guidance for integrating specific interaction patterns as a learning target into their own classrooms. The intended target audience includes university-level teachers in language departments, language program coordinators and supervisors, teachers-in-training, and graduate students and teaching assistants.