Eaquals
ONLINE
#EaqualsOnline

06 – 07

ÖzU

Participants

Reflections

Online 2023

This year, EAQUALS organized a two-day online event to share expertise and best practices in language teaching and learning at a global level. The main themes of this two-day online event were:

- Best Practice in Teaching & Learning
- The current & future role of AI in education
- Sustainability & Climate Impact

Following the opening of the conference on Friday, participants had the opportunity to participate in the opening plenary "Sustainability in the Language Teaching Context" by Owain Llewellyn which highlighted the importance of education for sustainable development and practical ways of embedding ESD into the operations of institutions and into syllabuses, curriculums, and programme outcomes in both a general language teaching context and a language teaching for academic purposes context.

The event continued with parallel sessions that provided participants with an opportunity to gain further insight into different aspects of the conference themes.

On the second day of the conference, Vicky Saumell presented a Plenary Session entitled "AI: the Future of Teaching and Learning?" to analyse its positive and negative aspects and explore what can be done through available tools.

Following the parallel sessions on Saturday afternoon, two panel discussions which focused on AI in Education, and Sustainability and Climate Impact were held.

Our school was represented by four ScOLa teachers as either a moderator or presenters / panelists.

During their joint presentation, Eray Sevingil Bilici and Elif Kandemir shared their insights in their session "Practices of Embedding Sustainability in EAP contexts".

At the end of the event, Elif Kandemir and Neslihan Sabuncu participated in a panel discussion titled "Sustainability & Climate Impact" in which teachers were asked to share their experiences and opinions regarding the theme.

The following ScOLa instructors were also able to attend the event and kindly shared their reflections:

Ferhat Karanfil, Işıl Özdemir, Parisa Farrokhian, Kezban Altuntaş Özben and Esra Çelik Soydan.

Thank you for the opportunity and for the successful organisation of this event.

ÖZYEĞİN UNIVERSITY
School of Languages

Eaquals

Reflection by Ferhat Karanfil

It was an excellent chance for me to join the Eaquals online conference. Thanks, Özyeğin University, for providing the opportunity. There were interesting topics, starting from teacher development sustainability and artificial intelligence in education, and I found myself joining teacher development sessions more.

The presenter discussed the effects of continuing professional development, and its impact on the students and the school. Using data to evaluate the professional development was quite adequate, and one of the speakers stressed the importance of reflection and post-observation conferences. Secondly, I enjoyed joining a session in which the design thinking skills framework was used, and it was used for perhaps school students; the system requires the research first, and they come up with prototypes.

Prototype here refer to learning of the students and the new product a school of languages has created for them and testing the product.

I think this new framework (DTS) may help leaders in the school of languages worldwide to think outside the box and come up with better solutions for the schools. I want to learn more about using artificial intelligence to enhance academic writing. I would like to learn how to use AI within academic boundaries.

There was research done by Magdalena Söyler on how to implement critical thinking at tertiary levels and even before, and I think that was such an excellent study because implementing critical thinking at university may be so late. We should start thinking about it earlier on, so students have this ability from an early ages on.

Reflection by Işıl Özdemir

This year, I had the opportunity to attend EAQUALS Online 2023. With a hot topic in the world of language teaching and learning, the sessions focused on two significant issues: Sustainability and Generative Artificial Intelligence. Given my interest in AI and its current role in today's education world, I primarily attended AI-related sessions. It's undeniable that AI has reshaped education worldwide, and the sessions I participated in covered a wide array of AI topics, ranging from ethical concerns, copyright issues, and academic integrity to its practical applications in education.

The Saturday Plenary Session, "AI: The Future of Teaching and Learning," delved into the primary concerns surrounding AI in education and how it will shape the future. The speaker provided attendees with insights into the distinctions between typical search engines and AI Chatbots. Following this, she introduced several AI tools suitable for practical use in EFL classes, such as BARD and BING for creating interactive lesson plans.

In a similar vein, the second session, "AI in English Language Teaching: Looking Ahead," featured Neenaz Ichaporia presenting the findings of a research conducted by the British Council on the use of AI in ELT classes. The research highlighted that most AI studies are published in Asia, and the use of AI is more prevalent in higher education compared to K12 or adult learning. However, the research also indicated limited available studies on receptive skills and sub-skills, and the long-term impact of AI on learning is still an ongoing area of study.

The subsequent session, "Artificial Intelligence and the International Student Experience: Upholding Academic Integrity," centered on international students in an English-Medium instruction educational environment and their experiences with AI. It was suggested that taking a risk-based approach to regulate AI could be a suitable option for integrating AI into education.

The final session I attended, "Enhancing Academic Writing: Leveraging the Power of AI," was particularly useful for offering practical methods to enhance academic writing. As an instructor teaching EAP, I was able to glean many valuable tips during the session, including some I had already employed in my lessons and new ideas to enrich my course design with the assistance of AI. The session also delved into ethical considerations and potential solutions.

Overall, after having the chance to attend sessions on AI with instructors from around the world, I realized that AI is a shared concern in the field of education. We acknowledge that AI has transformed education, making information more accessible, but we also recognize its challenges, particularly related to academic integrity and unethical use. As a result, we are all actively searching for solutions to these issues. One thing is becoming clear: AI will alter our understanding of assessment, but it will unlikely replace the human touch; it will remain a valuable tool for us.

Eaquals ONLINE

06 – 07 October 2023

Reflection

by Kezban Altuntaş Özben

I had the privilege of participating in the Eaquals event held from October 6th to 7th. This online event proved to be an enriching experience, offering valuable insights across a range of topics pertinent to language teaching. It provided a platform for exploring subjects such as sustainability, teaching efficacy, design thinking, the role of artificial intelligence in education, and more. In the sections below, I will share my reflections on the sessions I had the opportunity to attend, categorized into four key areas: i) Session Takeaways, ii) Impact & Application, iii) Future Actions/Resources, and iv) Personal Reflection. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to our school for affording me the opportunity to participate in this event.

Session Info	Session Takeaways	Impact & Application	Future Actions/ Resources	Personal Reflection
October 6, Plenary Sustainability in the Language Teaching Context	The importance of embedding education for sustainable development (ESD) into language teaching. The need to prepare students for challenges related to climate emergency and eco-literacy. Strategies for integrating sustainability into teaching.	I can incorporate sustainability topics and materials into my language lessons. I can encourage eco-literacy skills development among my students. I can explore online resources and courses related to ESD.	Explore online resources for teaching sustainability (e.g., objectives by UNESCO, eltsustainable. org,ELTfootstep) Develop sustainability-themed lesson plans and materials.	This session made me realize the possibility of addressing sustainability in language teaching. I see the value in integrating these topics into my teaching to prepare students for the future challenges they will face in a changing world.

| Teaching Efficacy: why it is important and how to achieve it? | Understanding the concept of teacher efficacy and its impact on student outcomes.

Strategies for promoting consistency in teaching teams while embracing diversity. | I can work on improving my teaching efficacy by setting clear goals and expectations for my students.

I can collaborate with colleagues to achieve consistency in teaching approaches. | Deliver / attend workshops or training sessions on teaching efficacy.

Share insights on teaching efficacy with colleagues. | This presentation highlighted the importance of teacher efficacy in achieving positive student outcomes.

It encouraged me to reflect on my own teaching practices and consider ways to enhance my efficacy both as an instructor and trainer. |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

Practices of Embedding Sustainability in EAP contexts	Examples of embedding sustainability in English courses at Özyeğin University. The role of sustainability in English courses at higher educational institutions.	I can incorporate sustainability topics into my English courses, focusing on Sustainable Development Goals by following and interdisciplinary approach.	Explore additional case studies on embedding sustainability in EAP contexts. Share sustainability-related resources with colleagues.	This presentation inspired me to integrate sustainability into my own teaching and promote sustainability as a core value in education.

October 7, Plenary	Discussion on the role of AI in education and its positive and negative aspects.	I can explore AI tools to enhance my teaching and reduce administrative tasks.	Stay updated on AI developments in education.	This plenary made me think critically about the potential of AI in education.
AI: the Future of Teaching and Learning?	Practical applications of AI tools in teaching and reducing educators' workload.	I can assess the ethical considerations of using AI in education.	Attend workshops on AI integration in teaching.

Try out AI tools in class to gain hands-on experience. | It's clear that AI can be a valuable tool, but we must also consider its ethical implications and use it judiciously. |

Learning Outcomes – Who thought fudge was important for lesson planning!	Revisiting and experimenting with the process of writing clear learning outcomes. Practical tips for improving lesson aims writing.	I can help my colleagues refine their skills in writing clear and effective learning outcomes for their lessons by using creative approaches, like the idea of "fudge".	Explore additional resources on writing effective learning outcomes. Collaborate with colleagues to share best practices in lesson planning.	This session provided a fresh perspective on writing learning outcomes, and I learned valuable tips that I can apply to make my feedback on lesson plans more effective.

Critical Thinking Enhancement within UDL Framework				
[Critical Thinking Enhancement within UDL Framework](#)	The application of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in promoting critical thinking (CT) in English immersion programs. Examples of how UDL principles can enhance CT skills.	To enhance learners' CT skills, I can adapt the provided classroom examples to incorporate UDL principles.	Explore further research on UDL and CT integration. Collaborate with colleagues to implement UDL principles in teaching.	This presentation highlighted the potential of UDL in promoting critical thinking and inclusivity in education. It encouraged me to explore these concepts further and adapt them to my own teaching practices.

Reflection by Parisa Farrokhian

I had a chance to participate in this conference and gain some new information and keep updated myself in ELT field.

The first day, I participated in "English-medium instruction: Empowering Academics with AI- Assisted course design". By Erkin Arkan. It was a great and important issue specifically nowadays; it gives us some hints that AI could lead and help us in planning and making some instructors for the classroom or design some lesson plans based on modifying the portfolio of the classroom. It could empower our class confidentiality while we are teaching. Teachers and students both can give some instruction to different AI in educational field, and it could manage and gives consistent plans and method for teaching and learning. And there was another the same related presentation about AI which was titled "The Dawn of AI: A New Era in English Language Teaching". It also mentioned that we can use AI for the quick reflection and feedback on different skills and by improving the technology and digital world; AI could be predicted as one the strongest platform which can help and assist the teacher or students to access to all resources just by asking the questions and this is the revolution of education in the future undoubtedly. Teachers can create tasks with different types of questions (true/false, summary, filling the blanks....).

Another presentation was titled "What's the point? Maintaining motivation for long term language learners." Maintaining motivation for long-term language learners is a multifaceted challenge that involves understanding the unique hurdles these students face. While short-term learners may experience a burst of initial enthusiasm, long-term learners must contend with language fatigue, homesickness, cultural adaptation, and academic pressures over an extended period. To keep their motivation levels high, it is crucial to create an environment that fosters a sense of belonging and cultural integration. Setting realistic goals and providing continuous feedback on progress can help these learners see their achievements, no matter how incremental. Moreover, employing diverse teaching methods, incorporating technology, and offering mental health support all play integral roles in sustaining the motivation of long-term language students. By addressing these issues comprehensively, educators can ensure that long-term language learners remain inspired and committed to their language learning journey throughout their extended stay in a foreign country.

Also, in the second day of the conference, the presentation by Anna Young titled "Practical ideas for interesting metacognition into class" was about Integrating metacognition into the classroom which is a powerful way to enhance students' learning experiences. Metacognition refers to thinking about one's own thinking, and it involves being aware of and adjusting one's cognitive processes. Here are some practical ideas for integrating metacognition into your classroom. Explicitly Teach Metacognitive Strategies begin by teaching students what metacognition is and why it's valuable for their learning. Explain that it involves thinking about their thinking, planning, monitoring, and evaluating their learning processes. Provide concrete examples to illustrate these concepts.