

## 2023 LTANT Annual Conference Reflection

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The Language Teachers Association of the Northern Territory (LTANT) conference in Darwin provided valuable insights, with a particular emphasis on the importance of implementing differentiation in language classrooms. I am convinced that incorporating this approach is essential to maintaining student motivation in language classes. One presentation that left a lasting impact on me was Marisa Schiavi's discussion of the universal design for learning. This framework, when applied in the classroom and integrated into advanced planning, facilitates successful learning outcomes for our students.

Often, we find ourselves attempting to teach content to our students in uniform ways, leading to challenges and frustrations. By making slight adjustments in the access and presentation of information, such as modifying size, colour, and incorporating images, we can witness substantial improvements in the teaching process. To effectively convey this insight to my team, I decided to focus on one aspect of the universal design – the various ways of presenting information. This approach encourages individual reflection on current practices and fosters an awareness of the small modifications that can be implemented to enhance the learning experience.

Furthermore, the sharing of learning experiences, as demonstrated by Professor Yuta and the exploration of technological tools like the Immerse app, offers concrete examples that warrant discussion in professional educational settings. These experiences allow us to emphasize the positive aspects of each practice and illustrate how they can be effectively incorporated into our classrooms. Evaluating the potential benefits of these tools for teaching different languages is crucial and discussing them with my team will empower us to make informed decisions that enhance our lesson planning and classroom activities.

Networking and sharing insights with other language teachers is invaluable for professional growth. Understanding how fellow educators tackle challenges in the classroom broadens our perspectives and exposes us to innovative strategies and tools. Education is an ever-evolving field, and adapting our approaches to meet emerging needs is imperative. As language teachers, learning another language is not only a practical tool in today's globalized world but, more importantly, a means of bridging cultures and gaining a deeper understanding of the world from diverse perspectives.

In conclusion, the LTANT conference in Darwin has reinforced the significance of incorporating differentiation in language classrooms, inspired by presentations on the universal design for learning and practical examples of effective teaching tools, among others. By promoting open discussions within our professional community and embracing the evolving nature of education, we can collectively enhance our teaching practices and prepare our students for success in a multicultural and interconnected world.