



2023 LTANT Annual Conference Reflection

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I attended the 2023 LTANT Conference looking forward to conversations that go beyond the everyday staffroom conversations of grade due dates and behaviour management. I found the address 'Achieving Success' by Andrew Scrimgeour thought provoking, especially his explanation that using Year 12 LOTE student numbers as a measure of language learning success does not depict the situation truthfully. Andrew spoke of language learners' possible exit every 2 years from Year 8 and then again at Year 10, and finally Year 12. This made me aware that although I want to use the six years of language education to prepare students for Stage 2, the students who wish to exit earlier must also end their LOTE education feeling some sense of achievement. I have realised that this may encourage them to learn another language later in life, which as a language teacher, is always a goal. Andrew also discussed the external factors effecting Australian students' motivation to learn a LOTE. I find the 'monolingual mindset' the hardest to comprehend in multicultural Australia and one that we must try to change in our language classes. James Parfitt also shared the same thought in his Welcome to Country stating that to speak to our neighbours and welcome them we need other languages.

Scott Cardwell's demonstration of the Immerse Me programme had me wondering when teachers will no longer be needed to teach language in the classroom!

Ken Rowley provided invaluable knowledge regarding Senior Language Programmes which may provide opportunities for a variety of students wishing to return to LOTE learning in the senior years or study a new language not offered at their education institution.

I also appreciated the other speakers giving hints on differentiation, and the tools to achieve this in a class, from other speakers.

Finally, the shared experiences of a student who completed studying LOTE at Stage 2 provided a meaningful insight into student perception of the LOTE classroom. This has motivated to ask my students more often about their own learning experiences.

Thank you so much for organising this wonderful and meaningful event.

