

## 2023 LTANT Conference Grant Reflection

### Maxime Desjardins – Good Shepherd

"I found the annual LTANT conference very informative. Since I'm relatively new to Darwin, it gave me insight into how and which languages are taught in NT schools. It was also an opportunity to meet other passionate language teachers from all over the Territory and exchange pedagogical strategies and tools with them. It's always a fantastic experience to learn from colleagues.

The conference highlighted the importance of shifting from a monolingual to a multicultural mindset in motivating students. Darwin and the NT are rich in cultural diversity, making it an ideal place for learners to explore various languages and cultures. Embracing multiculturalism allows students to learn new languages and appreciate diverse cultures.

Language classrooms that adopt a pluricultural approach provide students with a more holistic and immersive learning experience. This approach helps learners develop cultural competency, a crucial skill in today's interconnected world.

We could participate in multiple and diverse workshops during the conference. I chose one about Indigenous Language and Culture (ILC) programs. These programs provide students in the Northern Territory with opportunities to learn and engage with Aboriginal language and culture. This helps them to participate fully in the social and economic life of the NT. These programs aim to acknowledge and respect the histories, values, languages, and cultures of Aboriginal Territorians.

In addition, the conference introduced us to innovative language learning tools such as the language app "ImmerseMe", presented by Scott Cardwell, the CEO and founder of the app. Unlike traditional language learning methods that rely on rote memorization, immersive language apps simulate real-world scenarios, allowing users to practice their language skills in context. Users can find themselves in virtual environments where they need to communicate in the target language to navigate various scenarios, such as ordering food in a restaurant or asking for directions. This practical application can contribute to motivating our students."

