



2023 LTANT Conference Grant Reflection

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As always, the 2023 LTANT Conference was full of wonderful professional development and networking experiences. The first keynote speaker, Andrew Scrimgeour, challenged us to consider why language learning is declining in Australia. He encouraged teachers to move away from the 'siloes' approach to language learning, and consider ourselves instead as bilingual educators.

It was great to see the newest technology available to language teachers through the ImmerseMe program. It definitely seems like a comprehensive language learning tool which has the potential to dramatically improve the way students access their target language.

The highlight for me was the workshops. I particularly enjoyed the presentation by Luke and Tammy. I have always wondered how Australian Aboriginal languages are taught across Territory schools. The presentation demonstrated that it goes beyond tokenistic vocabulary learning, and instead imbeds language within the intercultural study of Australia's diverse First Nations' languages. This session have me some new ideas and resources to use in my own school context.

The other workshop I attended was delivered by Yuta. He gave a fresh and practical approach to differentiation, which was particularly useful for teachers who have a diverse class of student abilities. I have always wondered how I can more effectively teach and differentiate for students with varying experiences of Japanese.

Another highlight was the opportunity to hear about language teaching from the learner's perspective. Ironically, this is an often unheard voice. It was very powerful to hear from a student ways we can engage them better and make the language learning experience more enjoyable.

Overall, it was another exciting day and a great opportunity to connect with fellow language teachers.

