



TALKING ABOUT LANGUAGE AND EMOTIONS AT HOME

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Intro

Elena Curtopassi - Ensa

The Tales@home Erasmus funded project is reaching its conclusion but not its end... with its fourth meeting that has just been held in Palermo (Italy) from the 17th to the 19th of January 2018.

As you may know, the objective of the project is multilingualism and the struggle families are confronted with, when dealing with the multilingual context they live in or that harbours negative connotations towards the home language and/or the language of integration.

The fourth meeting was organized by the University of Palermo, a key partner in this project. Indeed, the University is in touch with multilingual families through research and counselling services. A wide range of families are concerned with bi-national or intercultural backgrounds. It is interesting to see how this university has chosen to invest in multilingualism and integration, at a time when migration flows are more than ever dominating the international agenda!

In this newsletter you can read more about the recent developments of the project and the initiatives already taken for the near future.

In June 2018 EURAC will present the project at the conference 'Exploring Language Education (ELE): Global and Local Perspectives' at Stockholm University.

Working on dissemination

For each European project, it's not only important to work on the content and specific targets, but also to further its dissemination. It's important to promote the project and to spread the ideas behind the output. The project TALES@home was already presented at different international meetings and conferences. To name only a few:

TALES@home was accepted for inclusion in the program of the Third Intergenerational Transmission of Minority Languages Symposium, organized by the University of Canterbury (New Zealand). Foyer recorded the presentation that became available for a wide audience on 11 December 2017

Università Di Palermo presented the project during the 6th International Congress on Emotional Intelligence, in Porto, Portugal, July 2017.

SIH director Daiva Malinauskienė, presented the project at the meeting of Erasmus+ „Parents for all" project (Athens, Greece) in October 2017.

A new activity - About me

Hilde De Smedt, Foyer

In the last newsletter, we gave you a first look at the tool Tales@home. Meanwhile, these activities have been tested and improved. One new activity has been adjusted and is called 'about me'.

In what follows, we will briefly explain why 'about me' has been adjusted. While building and constructing the tool it occurred to us that language is part of a complex process of identity formation. Brian Delord and Bob Townley (our partners from DHR) refer to different aspects of all this in their training*:

** All trainings and materials will be made available on the project website on the day of our conference in May.*

Identity is not a static notion and cannot always be linked to language or origin. People may also define their identities on the basis of religion, sexual preference, hobbies or politics for example.

More recently, with growing globalization, large groups of people are on the move and the link between place and identity has become less evident.

The status of languages in communities and societies also has a bearing on language acquisition & identity formation.

So our starting-point was the idea that, in order to understand the feelings of people regarding specific languages and language learning, we first have to understand how they view their position in life and gather insight in their important points of reference, plans and concerns. Our activity called 'timeline' creates possibilities to discuss migration history and experiences about integration challenges, etc. This activity is more suitable for adults and newcomers. The new activity 'about me' gives professionals the opportunity to have a short talk with children or adults about some of their points of reference.

'About me' is based on four questions. Of course this will not result in a complete image of someone's identity or personality, but it can create a wider understanding of it.

We will illustrate this new activity with an example:

Iwan is a ten year old boy. He migrated at the age of four to Palermo, because of his parents' work. They visit their family in Poland on a regular basis. On Saturday he attends a Polish school. He suffers language impairment and goes to a speech therapist twice a week.



1. Where would you wish to build your house?

Iwan said: In Sicily but not in Palermo. I would prefer the countryside. My family in Poland lives in a rural area and when I'm there, I can play outside all the time!



2. Who would you invite around the table?

Iwan told us: Ronaldo the famous football player, my best friend Marco, my grandparents from Poland and Italy, my new teacher.



3. What would you cook for them?

Iwan: Everybody has to eat arancine, pizza and cannolo. That's my favorite food and my grandparents from Poland like our food when they visit us.



4. Time for yourself: What do you want to do?

Iwan: Everybody has to eat arancine, pizza and cannolo. That's my favorite food and my grandparents from Poland like our food when they visit us.

So we learned something about Iwan: He has positive connections with either Sicily and Poland. He has a desire to be able to play more outside and especially football. This can be a point of discussion with the parents. On the one hand, it's good that he can improve his Polish skills, but on the other hand, his language impairment makes it tough on him, since a lot of his activities revolve around 'language' (Italian school, Polish lessons, speech therapy).

The fourth meeting of the project partners in Palermo - Patrizia Civetta, Foyer



Between January 16 and 19, the fourth meeting of the project TALES@Home, took place in Palermo (Italy).

For the fourth meeting we went south, and gladly so, since it was at the University of Palermo that the partners met to finalize the project. The University of Palermo (UNIPA) is an established cultural, education and research institute, based in central-western Sicily. Its 5 Schools and 20 Departments cover the most important fields of contemporary scientific and technological expertise.

We worked very hard during this fourth meeting, in order to be ready for the final conference, which will be held in Brussels this May.

The final version of the web application was presented: it contains the five activities as well as the backend and it will be available in six languages (Dutch, French, Italian, Lithuanian, English, German). The web application will be put online on May 8, the day of the final conference.

In Palermo we have also recorded five online lessons for professionals, which illustrate both the project and the web application and will be made available in May.

While some of the partners were recording the lessons, the others worked on the translation of the manual with the guidelines for using the tool, which will be made available in six languages on the website of TAH. It was wonderful to see partners from all over Europe, sitting side by side in the computer room of UNIPA and working very hard to achieve the final goals of our project, while outside the hot Sicilian sun was shining.

After all our hard work, we finally decided to enjoy the beautiful sun and went for a short visit of the city. The highlight of the tour was the Palatine Chapel; the Chapel of the Norman Kings of Sicily and its magnificent mosaics and impressive wooden ceiling. This chapel not only symbolizes cross-cultural cooperation, between craftsmen of three different religious traditions, working alongside each other, but is also a fine example of multilingualism, since the texts on the walls of the chapel are written in three languages: Latin, Arabic and Greek.



Sign up now!!



Talking about Language and Emotions at Home. Empowering multilingual families.

Conference on the 8th of May, Brussels (afternoon)

During this conference, research results and final tool will be presented to practitioners working with multilingual families, researchers and policy makers.

The conference will be in English and [registration](#) is free.

Expert meeting on the 9th of May, Brussels (morning)

International researchers and some other experts are invited to present their research and exchange ideas on the use of languages in multilingual families. The meeting will be in English. The deadline to introduce abstracts is closed. Researchers/practitioners outside of Belgium who want to participate, can mail to hilde.desmedt@foyer.be. More [information](#).

Detailed program will be available soon.

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