Oh my god!, Io sono troppo much confuso!

(Oh my god!, I’m so confused.)

Semih Seloni
Overview

- Learning English in elementary and middle school
- Learning Latin rooted languages
- High teacher expectations
- English vs. Italian
Elementary school

- Games with unknown aims for students
Elementary school

- Games with unknown aims for students
- Oral practices instead of memorization homework
Elementary school

- Games with unknown aims for students
- Oral practices instead of memorization homework
- Making students talk
Middle school

- Book analysis
Middle school

- Book analysis
- Difficulties in understanding vocabulary
Middle school

- Book analysis
- Difficulties in understanding vocabulary
- High expectations & Low performance
Middle school

- Book analysis

- Difficulties in understanding vocabulary

- High expectations & Low performance

- Divide students into levels of language proficiency
Quote 1:

‘The researchers who have searched for the affects of tracking on students achievement in education tend to believe that theoretically, students in all tracks learn faster due to the fact that the curriculum is tailored to their level of ability.’

(Taylor H.F, 2002)
Quote 2:

- ‘The differences between students can be too great, and their needs too dissimilar.’

Taylor H.F.(2002) *Understanding a Diverse Society*
Comparison between my learning of English and Italian

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Learning Spanish

- Conversation practices \( \rightarrow \) better than memorizations
Learning Spanish

- Conversation practices → better than memorizations
- Spanish interference in Italian midterms due to memorization based learning of Spanish
Learning Spanish

- Conversation practices → better than memorizations

- Spanish interference in Italian midterms due to memorization based learning of Spanish

- Importance of speaking practice
Lessons Learned

- Importance of knowing several languages
Lessons Learned

- Importance of knowing several languages
- Awareness on learning a new language
Lessons Learned

- Importance of knowing several languages
- Awareness on learning a new language
- Importance of the ability to communicate to someone in his/her mother tongue
Points to be reconsidered:

- What could be done to motivate students to learn foreign languages?

- Is it possible to provide a reason for learning a new language?
More points to be reconsidered:

- How could learners be helped identify their learning styles and develop their learning strategies?
Does the secret lie behind ‘raising learner awareness on why to learn a foreign language’?