

Hate It or Love It: *How Can
Instructors Lead a Learner To
Success or Failure*

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Once upon a time in a junior high....

- **Why am I here? What do I have to offer?**

THE voice of a learner

- 1st Hand Feedback

- “On Field” Experiences

Key Concepts Experiences Surveys

- **“Uniqueness”**
- **“Flexibility”**
- **“Culture”**
- **“Confidence”**



“Uniqueness”

- **Every language should be another journey**
- **Danger zone: Easy vs. Difficult languages**
- **Forced similarities /Paralyzed learners: Gaps between “literal and intended utterances”**
- **Spanish isn’t necessarily easy when you know English!**



“I don’t believe there are easy languages to learn. Understanding the language itself only makes it easier to learn.” Hande

“It requires effort but it’s fun, It’s not necessarily contradictory. When the language attracts me in a unique way, I put my effort to learn.” Burak



“Flexibility” of the instructor: One size doesn’t fit all!

- **Who “really” do you teach?**
- **Balance within instability**
- **Monitoring the class – Keeping reflexes fresh**
- **Your predictable methods are not good for me!**



“The practice of language should not be in class. Visiting places and people related to the language could be a fun & challenging way.” Aycan

“ At the beginning of every week I would spontaneously choose someone to go over the last class briefly.” Berrak

“ I would like to have to deal with original texts like classical novels of the language” Özgü



“Culture” of the language

Various reasons to
learn Spanish ...

One in particular...



- **Career concerns count – yet not a lasting motivation!**
- **“A language is worth the effort if it brings along the culture with it.” – Common point of surveys**
- **This actually is a mainstream view. But do current methods truly work?**

“Without the culture language is no different than mathematics.” Yiğit

“ You need to live with the language in order to learn it.” Ece

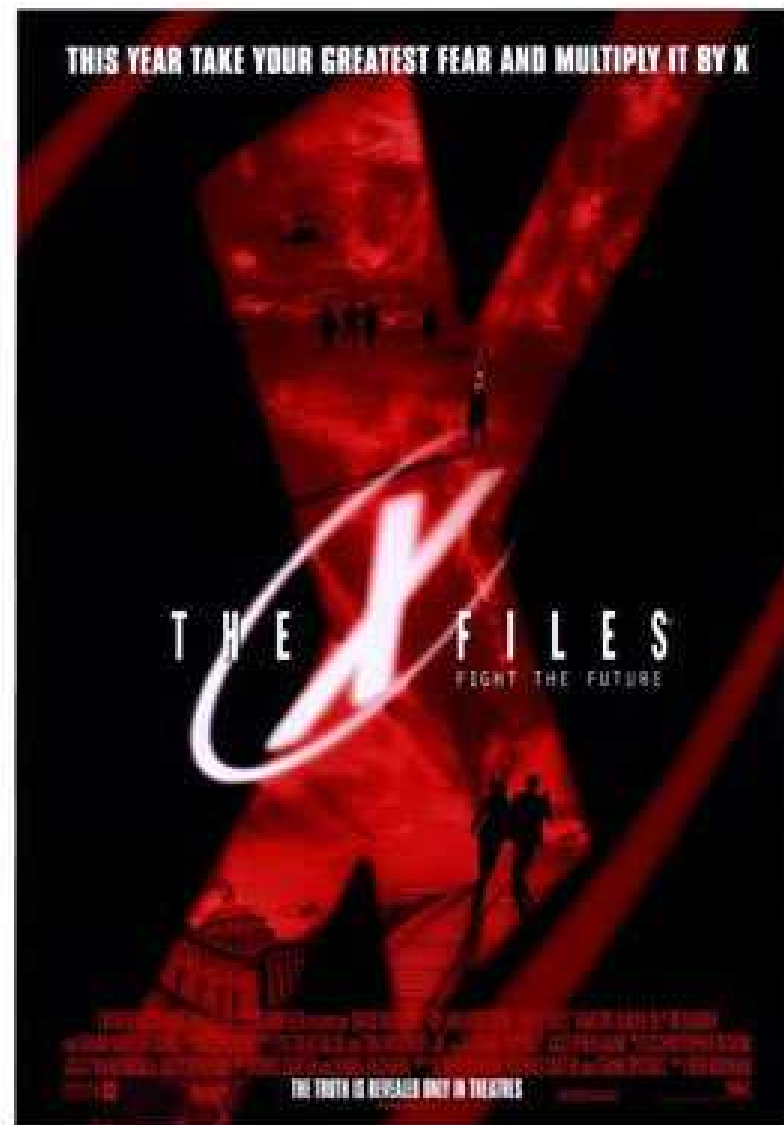
“ Only the culture introduced with the language can carry you to another dimension of existence.” Özgü

“Confidence” in speaking the language

- **“The Right Accent” and Facial Gestures: Reason for the silence in the class**
- **Urgent Matter: Devote special time to speaking from the very beginning!**
- **Getting through with “Mr. & Mrs. Smith”: What are the options?**



- **“It’s so discouraging for students to be forced to deal with meaningless conversations from the tapes (...) Insecurity of my accent in English held me back from expressing myself effectively for 6 years.” Ece**

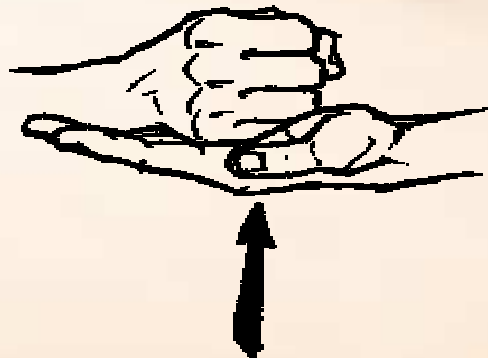


In conclusion...Every student is another reason why you count.

- **“I would expect the instructor to stop others from correcting my mistakes.” Gizem**
- **“I started Spanish at school but when I continued it in another institution I had to drop I language I liked at the beginning because of the boring instruction.” Berrak**
- **“I mastered English like my native tongue but I failed German two times and I did not attempt to learn any language ever since.” Beril**



A journey where I do the walking...but I have
no prior directions...



...Then we will all enjoy the journey...



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