

May 24-26 2007

FEEDBACK ON THE CONFERENCE – July 2007

n=41

A) Please rate your overall satisfaction with the following aspects of the SL International Conference:

1 = *Excellent* 2 = *Good* 3 = *Satisfactory* 4 = *Poor* N/A: *Not applicable*

ASPECT	1	%	2	%	3	%	4	%	N/A	%
1- The conference as a whole	26	72,2	12	33,3	2	5,6	1	2,8	0	0,0
2- The format of the conference (i.e. plenaries by both learners and educators followed by concurrent sessions, coffee break, lunch, voices from the learners, concurrent sessions and ending with plenaries) :	23	63,9	16	44,4	1	2,8	0	0,0	1	2,8
3- The plenary sessions at this event:	19	52,8	10	27,8	9	25,0	1	2,8	2	5,6
a) Plenaries by language learners										
3- The plenary sessions at this event:	23	63,9	15	41,7	2	5,6	0	0,0	1	2,8
b) Plenaries by language educators										
4- The organization and management of the conference:	21	58,3	17	47,2	0	0,0	1	2,8	2	5,6
a) before the conference										
4- The organization and management of the conference:	31	86,1	9	25,0	1	2,8	0	0,0	0	0,0
b) during the conference										
5- The tea and coffee breaks:	26	72,2	11	30,6	3	8,3	0	0,0	1	2,8
6- The reception:	17	47,2	7	19,4	2	5,6	0	0,0	15	41,7
7- The boat trip:	16	44,4	3	8,3	1	2,8	0	0,0	21	58,3
8- The concurrent sessions by	13	36,1	13	36,1	8	22,2	2	5,6	5	13,9
a) language learners										
8- The concurrent sessions by	15	41,7	16	44,4	5	13,9	2	5,6	3	8,3
b) language educators										
Overall	21	58,1	12	32,6	3	8,6	1	1,8	5	12,9

B) If you would like to comment on any of the above responses/ratings, please write your comments here:

1- The conference as a whole

The conference is really good. Enjoyed all from food (fruit as well) to sessions I joined.
High quality, really enjoyable.
Very interesting, stimulating. I felt very better equipped later.
It was coherent and of very high quality.
So much to see in a short time.
To cut it short. It was full.
Perhaps more indication of the type of audience (e.g. tertiary, academic, etc) anticipated for a session would be useful.
Some of the concurrent sessions' studies had (I think) serious flaws in them – perhaps you could examine methods as well as summaries before accepting.
The conference as a whole was a little over-focused on university teaching and learning.
Everything was really well organized.
It was a nice experience and well-organized.
Very well organized and some really interesting sessions.
Really well organized conference and all the people were very kind.

2- The format of the conference :

Excellent. Especially I liked the session with Jane Arnold most and all other sessions were good, too. Sometimes it was hard for me to choose which one I could attend.
Very good organization.
Great ideas and solutions, very community atmosphere.
The variety marked well. It was good to move around during the day.
Adding plenaries <u>not</u> a good idea as people are tired and the speakers miss a good chance – also some of them are there you privileged over the others. Maybe a plenary after meals.
I found the days especially the first, rather long.
Voices from the learners are satisfactory.
It was too dense a program that each and everyone of us got lost after the fourth or max. the fifth sessions.
Very helpful and with just enough breaks.
Finishing an hour earlier would be advisable. Three concurrent sessions consecutively might be too many without a lunch break.
Generally very well planned, but I would have preferred a coffee break in the afternoon. It seemed a long time between lunch and the end of the afternoon concurrent sessions!
Maybe fewer concurrent sessions would have made my life easier, too many things too little time :-))
Nice, nothing wrong with the format but the reception was too late. I couldn't attend because of that although I came from a place which is not really close to Istanbul.
Would have been nice to have had coffee breaks between concurrent sessions.
A bit loaded. Rushing from one session to the other was tiring and made last concurrent sessions difficult to be concentrated.
The only thing was that there were too many concurrent sessions that made it sort of tiring.
There should be more plenary sessions, less concurrent sessions.

3- The plenary sessions at this event:

I could see students worked very hard, that was interesting to hear what they had to say.
The plenary sessions by educators were great but there were really weak ones in concurrent sessions. The titles

were promising but once inside there was nothing scientific in some of them. When I talked to my friends at the end of the days, I felt really unlucky about my choices.
See above.
Perhaps 60 min x 3 blocks would ensure better attendance.
Seeing students on stage, talking about their learning experiences was a great pleasure.
The learners who presented were superb and it is awesome they were given the opportunity to lend their voices to the conference. Some plenaries were excellent, some not quite the level I was looking for but I got something out of each and everyone.
(learners) I especially liked Sevgi Özpehlivan's and Aycan Çorum's but tone could be more 'I prefer', 'I think you should' rather than 'you should', 'shouldn't you'; (educators) considering the late changes very successful and especially Jane Arnold and Tony Humphreys stimulating.
Entertaining and informative.
Good idea to add students to the conference. Plenaries were great.
Great idea.
Looking at the issue from the other part was very interesting and completely different.
Trying to understand the perspective of learners is a great idea.

4- The organization and management of the conference:

I had some transportation problem. I wish there was transportation to help us reach Pendik more easily. I could not stay for late sessions because of transportation.
Thanks all of you.
The times of the last presentations and the shuttle services did not match so I couldn't participate in the last ones. Thanks for not charging by the way.
Didn't get a reply to a late e-mail but I know it was a busy time.
Since we, as Atılım University, are preparing for an international ELT conference next year, I have to admit that I learned a lot.
Before the conference, communication was clear and timely. During the conference everything was clear and there was always someone to help out in the case of getting lost.
Cross-referencing the book with the updated schedule was difficult – you could highlight the differences between the old and the newest versions; transport to Kadıköy didn't really fit the conference program especially for non-participants in social events: Thursday: finish 7:35, shuttle 7:45 (had to run), Friday: finish 6:40, shuttle 7:45, Saturday: finish 1:30, shuttle 4:30.
I can honestly say that the organization has been perfect. Everybody has been very helpful to me personally. I thank the lady who got me pills against seasickness.
Perhaps you need more staff to deal with queries? Telephone lines were often engaged. Staff at the conference were very helpful and polite, room numbers were clearly signposted, there was ample tea, coffee and snacks and catering staff were polite and attentive.
Very impressive indeed, thanks a lot
The venue was too far from the centre of İstanbul.
I think the shuttles from the city center should have been free for the participants.

5- The tea and coffee breaks:

It was nice to have fruits.
I appreciated the fruit.
Fruit, water, excellent. Need somewhere to sit in the breaks, a "chill out" zone!
Fruit was a good idea.
Awesome snacks (the biscuits – wow! and the strawberries) haven't had such good fruit in a long time.
I can no longer say that the French are the best cooks and bakes. It is the Turks.
See above. Lunch was satisfactory to poor - the quality of the food left a little to be desired and queues were long as conference attendees shared the same lunch break and room as university students and staff.
People helping themselves to coffee or tea could have saved a bit of time

Offering fruit with tea and coffee was very kind.
Would be better to have coffee breaks between the concurrent sessions especially after lunch.
See earlier note.
Fresh fruit was an excellent idea.
Serving fruit was a great idea :)

6- The reception:

Unfortunately I was not able to attend it due to problem of transportation.
But I was soooo (!) tired.
I can no longer say that the French are the best cooks and bakes. It is the Turks.
No idea.

7- The boat trip:

I have not attended it but heard it was great.
I haven't been.
Unfortunately couldn't participate.
A wonderful experience, meal, trip
I can no longer say that the French are the best cooks and bakes. It is the Turks.
How about online receipts for the beautiful food served?
I couldn't take part.
It was too late and I could not attend this one either.

8- The concurrent sessions by language learners and language educators:

Ashley made me think of my writing feedback on my students' papers. I think I will be more understanding next time when I write my comments on students' papers limiting the number of mistakes I underline each time putting the emphasis on different issues next time (content once, language in next assessment).
Tony Humphreys, Jane Arnold, Maria Snarski, Sibel Sagner, Lynne Ronesi, Lynne Diaz-Rico, Sharon L. Çeltek, Angeles Clemente.
The learners excellent addition to the conference.
Language café (yapalım mı?) Workshops on language culture identity. Post-colonial English in Mexico.
Nina Spada's Integrated and Isolated FFI, Clare Kramersch's Voice and Desire, Jane Arnold's Affect.
Jane Arnold on Affect, Lynne Diaz-Rico on Vygotsky, Tony Humphreys.
Hard to decide.
But there were one or two I missed when I needed a break; learner feedback – Hazal /Emma; Learners on the Mike – Mora /Anıl; Speaking the Same Language – Emma / Rolinda.
Jane Arnold on Affect, Tony Humphreys, Lynne Diaz-Rico on Vygotsky.
Decide on your grade A or F – Ozan Zeki Bağ. Learner feedback for curriculum improvement; the iterative research cycle – Hazel Owen and Emma Durham.
The learners were very fluent and understandable but a bit too general. Language educators: Bart Deygers, Sevdeğer Çeçen and Hande Öztürk, Erkan İsmail Arkin, Ayşegül Şallı and İlkay Gilanlıoğlu.
Plenary by Kramersch and by Emre and Arnold. Also by the Macedonian girls (last concurrent session).
I was surprised to find that some presenters were (or appeared to be) underprepared and unsure of themselves, had not taken into account the constraints of the room for pair and group work and did not involve their audience enough. Most enjoyable - Jane Arnold, University of Seville Most involving - Sibel Sagner, British Council.
Plenary Claire Kramersch, Tony Humphreys
Plenary sessions by Kramersch, Kennedy and Spada.
Student examine teachers, no place for fear in language learning. Jane, Adrian, Dilek İnal, Sibel Tüzel

Kandiller and Gülден Taylanç.
I loved Robert Ledburry's Language Café project the most.
I liked Denise and Sharon's workshop a lot.
The session by the two students on vocabulary learning was a lot of fun.
Jane Arnold and Tony Humphreys.
Sinemis Temel, Sharon Çeltek, Mora Hockstein.
Nina Spada.
All sessions of Tony Humphreys.
Antonia and Christina's session on Spanish Culture :)
I learned what they go through as they learn a foreign language.

C) "Food for thought":

1- Please write down one thing you have learned from *language learners* at this conference:

...that I can be more tolerant when I mark their work considering their learning stress and further motivation.
Aycan A. Çorum, Gizem Günday and Sevgi Özpehlivan were really good.
Different ideas shared – always a good thing.
What they expect, consider useful / funny and motivating. It is not what we think or plan; always check and speak about the learning/ teaching process.
It is essential to have different hobbies to be the orange fish. I try to be one as well. Thank you very much.
How perceptive they are although no methods training. They recognize what the teachers do.
A good chance for the group, very authentic, original, innovative.
Too many to mention! I have been reflecting a lot about students I have worked with.
Learners are to be touched on. The only issue is that we have to find a correct way.
Motivation and communication.
They are very aware of the value of reflective practice.
There are differences between difficulties / stresses of prep. and freshman students.
How important it is to be a reflective teacher and to learn to know our learners.
Students are scared! The degree of fear and apprehension some learners experience when embarking on a course of English study.
They have the same problems as learners in many other countries.
They want bit more freedom and space in learning and meant to be more active.
That we should start learn a language as soon as possible.
I have many ideas on how to give a presentation in a workshop format.
Language teaching has caught up with psychology.
For all our theory and 'teacher knows best' it is still valid to incorporate some of our students' views into our teaching.
I learned a lot about content-based teaching. There were a lot of different very interesting sessions.
Foreign language learning may have an affect on the way you think, behave and act.
Language should be made active and useful in the classroom. Learners learn the language only if they use it.
To like the teacher is important for learners and languages learnt best because of immediate reasons, not for future necessities.
They always need more and more games to learn something so games are not a waste of time.
That they need daily use of English Language as well as ESP.
I learned what they go through as they learn a foreign language.

2- What other topics and/or activities would you like to see included in future School of Languages conferences OR events?

Some of the sessions were quite abstract even with the explanation and all but I have hard a lot about different research from different countries and all gave me an idea to start mine.
I would like to see more scholars as qualified as the ones we saw in the plenaries. People shouldn't be

accepted just because they are studying for their MA or PhD in UK or somewhere else.
More workshops where we can get involved.
Curriculum change, assessment for learning, successful practice of communicative approach, i.e. different cultures.
Thanks for everything.
More applicable methods and not that much of studies but results of those studies.
Workshops / hands-on “training sessions”
No specific requests just something quite specific and relevant to all (university English) teachers (like this one).
More interactive workshops (too many lectures in the concurrent sessions). More sessions on practical activities, or more of a connection made between research and practice. Private language schools in Turkey \The Forgotten Classroom\!!! Hundreds, if not thousands of people learn English in these kind of schools and many university teachers (including some Sabanci staff)started in this area, yet the subject is not addressed (standards, style of teaching, operating environment). Not everyone works in a university teaching 18-year-olds.
Maybe I expected more practical hints to share, found the contributions a bit too theoretical at times.
Research methods to collect data in the classroom.
More topics related to technology and education.
More topic on teacher training issues as food for thought for a novice teacher trainer.
I think majority of them were covered. It was great.
Use of technology in class (innovative ones).
Having learners as speakers was very much to the point of our conference topic. Well done to them and those who have come up with the idea :)))
Classroom management, any research paper with interesting classroom implications.

3- Further comments and suggestions:

As a whole I enjoyed being here. Thanks for your effort and enthusiasm and hard work to make it possible for the language teachers.
I have really enjoyed the time. Thank you for your huge effort and hard work..
Excellent plenary speakers. A chance for various language educators’ to exchange views working at relaxing atmosphere always work. Thank you.
Lifeport’s breakfast was very disappointing, didn’t do the lonely place / location justice.
The program should finish earlier.
Thank you.
I loved the conference and enjoyed the diversity of the conference; the warmth of the Sabanci students and the faculty; and the beauty of the campus. Thank you.
Spread concurrent sessions on similar topics, (e.g. vocabulary) through sessions, so people can either concentrate on one area or choose. To avoid similar topics after seeing one.
Bravo! Please organize another one soon.
Maybe I expected more practical hints to share, found the contributions a bit too theoretical at times. Thanks very much for everything, it was just perfect.
Time for questions in the plenary sessions.
Changes in bus schedule caused a little problem.
You have to deal with the students’ voices but next time this could be done for the language teachers as well. Maybe more convenient transport could be arranged.
Maybe the hosts should be more interested in participants. A felt a bit alone over there. But the conference was good and I enjoyed it.
Bir daha !!! Bir daha !!! (Another one please!)
Q and A after the plenary section would be my suggestion.
Since the bus left from Taksim at 7:00 a.m. we were unable to eat breakfast and then we arrived at the conference there was nothing to it (until the coffee break) and no café open to get food. It may be wise to offer breakfast. Otherwise, everything was done very well.
As Mr. Humphreys suggested, I would be very happy to see something about us, the teachers.
There was no discount for students in the conference fee. All conferences around the world have a discounted

fee for graduate students. I hope next year you will consider this. 100 euro is a very high rate for a conference. Service facility was not enough for the morning sessions. Considering how remote your campus is, you should have provided more service buses for free. You declared that service buses were free after the end of the second day of the conference. I think the service buses must be free for all participants. Service bus fees are additional burden for the participants.

We need more detailed information about the concurrent sessions beforehand. Some of them weren't about the topic I had expected.

It was really a good idea to have students as presenters. I think we should continue to have students to share their learning experiences with educators. Also considering the amount of fee, I think some instructors from the state universities were not able to attend, I wonder if we can help at least a few teachers to participate the conference for free.