

## CHRIS KENNEDY

### Plenary Talk Facilitating learner growth

We want our students to grow as social beings, as thinkers, as independent learners, and as competent language users for whatever purpose they are learning English. The challenge for us is to see whether we can devise ways of integrating all four aspects of the growth we want them to achieve. I will look at some ideas about growth and what we mean by it, the conditions necessary for growth, and ways in which we might encourage our students to grow.

Growth is always part of a system and you need certain conditions to achieve growth. This presents a challenge to teachers as conditions are rarely favourable and teachers are expert at minimising the negative conditions, maximising the positive and adapting to the conditions that will allow growth to take place.

Growth is regarded as a positive thing as long as it is controlled in some way - there has to be some sort of mediation which in our context may be the teachers and the materials they use. The difficulty is deciding on the degree of control since we do not want to hamper our students' growth. Growth is more likely to occur if learners are given opportunities to develop themselves within a supportive environment so that they can engage with their learning.

I will suggest some ways in which we can encourage learners to be more active in their learning and engaged as investigators of language.

### Workshop Language awareness and the linguistic landscape

The spread of English as a global language now means that in most urban and many rural areas of the world, English is present in the 'linguistic landscape', that is, all around us in our everyday lives in streets, shops, and on products. It occurs in co-existence and mixed with local languages in various lexical and grammatical forms, and in different scripts, for example, in advertisements, and on signs, drink cartons, and food packets, even though such artefacts are designed for a generally non-English-speaking market. The workshop will provide examples of the use of this type of English from various countries including I hope Turkey, and explore the serious reasons why it is present. Companies and businesses spend a lot of money deciding when to use English in advertisements and signs for example so it is not a trivial issue. Participants will be invited to examine examples of artefacts collected from various linguistic landscapes to see how and when English is used, how it interacts with

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the local language, and what this says about local consumer identities. We will then explore together how such investigations might be used in our classrooms to raise the language awareness of our learners and what sort of frameworks for analysis we might provide for our learners if we wanted them to carry out their own investigations into their own linguistic landscapes.

#### Bio

Professor Chris Kennedy has worked as teacher, trainer, adviser, and academic in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, South-East Asia, and South America. His research and publications focus on Language Policy, Curriculum Innovation, and English as Global Language, with interests also in Primary ELT, Professional Communication and Applied Corpus Linguistics. He is a Past President of IATEFL, and was Chair of the British Council English Teaching Advisory Committee for many years. He is Director of the Centre for English Language Studies at the University of Birmingham UK, which runs Masters and PhD programmes, including a world-wide distance Masters and PhD programme in TEFL/Applied Linguistics/Translation.

His connection with Turkey goes back a long way -he was instrumental in setting up the Language Centre at Bilkent University while he was Chief Executive of the Centre for British Teachers in London; he has carried out language consultancies in Turkey; and he and his colleagues in Birmingham have worked with Turkish colleagues at the Language Centre in Sabanci University, Istanbul.

He always enjoys his visits to Turkey which he thinks is a fascinating country with lovely people. He has attempted to walk up Mount Uludağ in Bursa (but got lost in the mist) and has walked part of the Lycian Way (Likya Yolu) in Ölü Deniz in an attempt to work off the effects of eating too much Turkish delight, which he loves and a supply of which Turkish visitors to Birmingham are always asked to bring with them from Turkey.

