

English Language Teachers' Summer Seminar 2026

Week 1: 27 – 31 July

Linguistic Mediation in the Secondary School Classroom: Skills, Strategies and Activities (B1 and above)

Tutor: Hanna Kryszewska

Are your students equipped to truly connect in today's globalised world? This practical, forward-looking workshop is designed for English teachers working with upper secondary and adult learners at B1 level and above. It will guide you in rethinking language teaching through the lens of effective communication and social agency, offering you a deeper understanding of what it means to mediate meaning in real-world contexts.

Throughout the week, you'll:

- Discover why 21st-century skills are essential in language teaching and how to integrate them meaningfully into your lessons
- Examine the growing importance of language, social intelligence, and cultural awareness in bridging communication gaps.
- Unpack the core principles of successful communication—constructing, shaping, and adapting meaning for different audiences and purposes.
- Critically assess and adapt classroom activities that develop cognitive, intralingual, interlingual, cultural, and interpersonal mediation skills.

By the end of your week, you'll walk away with a refreshed perspective, a toolkit of engaging, ready-to-use activities, and the confidence to foster your learners' communicative competence in more nuanced, real-world ways.

<p>Session 1 Monday</p>	<p>The Map</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group formation and the map of the field. • Social and psychological underpinnings of how we use language as defined by CEFR. • How much mediation is already present in your teaching and in your coursebooks.
<p>Session 2 Tuesday</p>	<p>The Cognitive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicative activities with a twist. • Mediating content - a new view on information-sharing and information gap. • Adapting or using authentic materials for interaction with a text.
<p>Session 3 Wednesday</p>	<p>The Intralingual</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of language register and lexis in mediation. • Written and spoken intralingual activities. • Various roles we play when we use language and how we adjust it accordingly.
<p>Session 4 Thursday</p>	<p>The Interlingual</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation and (near) translation. Moving between mother tongue and target language. • A new role for the use of the mother tongue in the language classroom. • Translanguaging activities.

Session 5 Friday	Culture, Conflict, and Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing cultural and socio-cultural awareness. Moving between cultures. • Mediating points of view; conflict resolution and elements of (psycho) drama. • Assessing effective communication skills and the washback effect of testing.
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Please note: This course schedule is intended to give an overview of the topics to be covered in each session; however, it may be liable to change at the tutor's discretion.

USEFUL READING

- Arnold, Jane, Dörnyei, Zoltan & Pugliese, Chaz. (2015) *The Principled Communicative Approach*, Helbling Languages.
- Chiappini, Riccardo, Mansur Ethan (2021) *Activities for Mediation* Delta Publishing
- Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching and Assessment. Companion Volume (2020) Council of Europe, pp.90-121.
- Deller, Sheelagh & Rinvoluceri, Mario. (2002) *Using the Mother Tongue*, Delta Publishing.
- Kerr, Philip. (2014) *Translation and Own-language Activities*. New Edition. CUP
- Mansur. E. & R. Chappini (2025) *How To Write Mediation Activities (Training Course For ELT Writers)*. Independently Published.
- Mishan, F. & T. Kiss. *Developing Intercultural Language Materials*. (2024), Routledge Taylor & Francis Ltd