



# Lesson observation worksheet

## Using the L1 in the classroom

### Issues

**Before you watch 'Using the L1 in the classroom', give each of the following statements a score from 0 (= I don't agree) to 5 (= I agree 100%):**

- a) Students should use only English in an English-language lesson.
- b) It's OK to use the students' language for things like classroom management.
- c) Students should be allowed to use their L1 for some classroom tasks but not others.
- d) Students learn a lot from comparing English with other languages that they speak.

### Discuss

**If you have someone to discuss these issues with, compare your scores to theirs. Talk about any differences, and try to persuade them to accept your point of view.**

(See Chapter 1, Section 1.3.)

### Watching tasks

#### 1 Who (Araceli, Asli, Ricardo or Zeynep) ...

- 1 doesn't use the students' L1 at all?
- 2 gets the students to monitor each other's use of the L1?
- 3 punishes the students for using the L1?
- 4 says that students find the L1-only policy challenging at first but they get used to it pretty quickly?
- 5 says that the classroom (and the school) is an English-only environment when the English teacher is there, but for other subjects it is not?
- 6 thinks students should be able to avoid using their own language for at least a classroom period?
- 7 thinks that it is vital for students to use good bilingual dictionaries to check that they understand L1 /L2 equivalents?
- 8 thinks that it might be more difficult to stick to an English-only policy at higher levels?
- 9 thinks that L1 can be used when necessary, but it is English that should be focused on?
- 10 thinks the L1 is a tool just like any other classroom aid?
- 11 used to allow the use of the students' L1 but doesn't any more?
- 12 uses only English in every teacher–student encounter (both inside and outside the class)?
- 13 would have used the L1 if the level of the students had been lower (than that of the students who were taught for the video)?

#### 2 Explain the following:

- 1 the language policy in Asli's school
- 2 what Araceli uses cookies and pizza for
- 3 Zeynep's attitude to L1 and L2 translation
- 4 Ricardo's views of the place of L1 in the classroom

## PLAN INTO ACTION: Experimenting with the L1

Choose whichever of the following tasks is most appropriate to your current teaching situation.

- 1** If you normally use some of the students' L1 in the classroom, teach at least two lessons without a single word of it. How different are the lessons? How do you and/or your students feel about it?
- 2** If you never use your students' L1 in class, try using it some of the time (for explanations, etc.) for at least two lessons. How do your students feel about it?
- 3** If your students have different languages (i.e. they are a multilingual class) ask them, fairly often, how they would translate English phrases into their own languages. Do they think this helps them (and do you enjoy talking about it)?

## Research

**Design a survey to find out your colleagues' and your students' views about the use of the L1 in the classroom. Find out:**

- 1** what their general view is.
- 2** whether they have always thought like this (or whether their view has changed).
- 3** whether their view changes depending on what kind of activity is taking place.
- 4** what teachers do if their students use the L1 when they don't want them to.

**Write a report on your findings.**

1 1 Aslı 2 Araceli 3 Araceli 4 Aslı 5 Aslı 6 Araceli 7 Zeynep 8 Aslı 9 Ricardo 10 Ricardo 11 Aslı 12 Aslı 13 Ricardo  
2 1 The English lessons are English only – and that applies to the students' interaction with English teachers outside the classroom.  
2 Araceli uses cookies and pizzas as a kind of fine/punishment for students using their L1.  
3 Zeynep wants her students to match English words with their correct meaning in Turkish – the danger is that by using a bilingual dictionary, they will get the wrong meaning.  
4 Ricardo is not too worried about the students' use of L1. He thinks L1 is a tool like anything else. He says that CLL, especially, allows for the use of L1.

