

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EFL Or: ENGLISH FOR TIRED TEACHERS – 2nd edition

Under the auspices of the Master in Linguistics for Teachers of English as a Foreign Language

Faculdade de Ciências Humanas – Universidade Católica Portuguesa
16 de março de 2019 | sala 131 (Edifício FCH)

Cultural expectations determine the use of language in many different situations as they act as “organizational models” which allow speakers to interpret “contextualized cues” (Koike 2010) and adapt discourse to the pragmatic demands of disparate interpersonal interactions. Whilst native speakers deeply familiar with the cultural expectations of everyday situations may be capable of rendering appropriate discourse based on expected interpretations of cultural cues, the same may not be true of L2 or foreign language speakers. In fact, and because expectations and socio-pragmatic adaptability are different in every culture, EFL teachers must ask themselves the extent to which they need to incorporate cultural variables and expectations into their teaching practices, broaching a wide range of subjects from gender, politeness and impoliteness, to implicatures, formulaic and creative speech acts, and pragmatic markers in general so as to achieve communicative efficiency.

However, EFL learners are already embedded in cultural backgrounds which carry their own cultural expectations. The role of EFL teaching is therefore to raise awareness of the cultural expectations that come with the learning of any foreign language so as to strengthen the pragmatic competence of EFL learners (Mugford 2017), whilst not disparaging the expectations and cultural cues which students already possess.

Under the auspices of the Master’s programme in Linguistics for EFL Teachers, the 2nd edition of The Importance of Being EFL aims to reflect upon the relevance of cultural expectations and their potential to improve pragmatic competence in EFL teaching and learning. The programme is as follows:

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| 9.30 – 10 am | Reception and opening |
| 10 – 10.30 am | Rita Queiroz de Barros, FLUL/CEAUL: <i>Entre os indefectíveis Bretões: Expectativas culturais e respectivas implicações nas características e aprendizagem da ortografia do inglês.</i> |
| 10.30 – 11 am | Carlos A.M. Gouveia, FLUL/CELGA-ILTEC, U. Coimbra: <i>O que a gramática tem a ver com a cultura? Usos linguísticos e práticas situadas enquanto ancoragem cultural.</i> |
| 11 – 11.30 am | Coffee-break |
| 11.30 am – 12 pm | Jane Duarte + Ana Albuquerque, UCP/CECC: <i>L1 Interference, ICT and Cultural Literacy.</i> |
| 12 – 12.30 pm | Jeffrey Childs, U. Aberta/CEC, FLUL: <i>Public conversation, cultural knowledge and critical language learning.</i> |
| 12.30 – 2 pm | Lunch break |
| 2 – 2.30 pm | Rita Faria, UCP/CECC: <i>How polite is EFL? An examination of im/politeness in EFL discursive practice.</i> |
| 2.30 – 3.30 pm | Celeste Simões, APPI: <i>"She's a policeman?!" - Questões de Género, Identidade e Cidadania em sala de aula</i> |

Registration:

Registration Fee is 30€ (includes coffee break and conference materials).

Payment - By bank transfer:

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Further information: rita.faria@fch.lisboa.ucp.pt (Rita Faria)

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