

## Danish University Colleges

### Experimenting with Lyricism

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Symposium May 2018

Topic: Multilingualism and Education: Interdisciplinary and International Perspectives

Presentation proposal

Title: Experimenting with Multilingual Lyricism

This conference paper will present the preliminary results from a research project that is grounded in two initiatives. The first is a systematic integration of poetry in the German language classroom in order to develop multilingual students' communicative and intercultural competences (Byram, 1997) in the Danish primary school (*folkeskolen*). The second is a pluralistic approach (Daryiai-Hansen, in press) to teaching German as a foreign language that challenges monolingualism in a multilingual classroom. The beginning stages of this project already lay the foundation for experimentation with multilingual lyricism (Mayr-Hueber, 2016) in the subject of German as a foreign language with multilingual students.

This paper will contribute to the themes of the symposium as it will shed light on students' multi- and metalinguistic creativity through lyrical experimentations that reach beyond the target language of German in the Danish classroom to other languages pertinent to the students' linguistic repertoires. It will, furthermore, directly contribute to the current discussion on converging foreign language and literature in the communicative foreign language classroom, thus (re)claiming the rightful and essential place of literature in the German language classroom. The purpose is to create conditions for an organic development of students' intercultural, communicative, and symbolic competence (Kramersch, 2011).

The project is designed to be twofold: On the one hand, it encourages students to explore aesthetic experiences and to sharpen their linguistic awareness in the literary universe of a number of poems that experiment with form and content. To create accessibility to such experiences and awareness students will be familiarized with Concrete Poetry, visual and sonic, as well as other short poems written (primarily) in German by authors of different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. A number of lesson plans that systematically incorporate experimental poems will be created in close collaboration with (primarily) German language teachers in a Danish *folkeskole*.

On the other hand, the project will investigate the students' linguistically creative work with constructing their own poems both in the target language (German) and in translation to other languages, to which students can relate. One of the aims of this project is to construct knowledge about ways in which multilingual students experiment with the use of German and other languages to shape their lyrical understandings of the presented poetry through their own multilingual literary creations. A part of this project will consist of documenting and analyzing these literary creations to provide evidence of the students' language acquisition, communicative competence, intercultural learning and symbolic competence.

References:

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