3S2. Filling the Gap for English Language Learning from Underrepresented Language Students (ELL-UL)

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FILLING THE GAP FOR ELL-UL STUDENTS

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IOWA - Education Summit 2017
**ELL-UL**

**ELL-UL** - English Language Learner from Underrepresented Languages

**LCTL** - Less Commonly Taught Languages, all languages except:

- English,
- French,
- German,
- Spanish. (CARLA, 2017)
ELL vs. non-ELL

Percentage of public school students who were English language learners, by state:
School year 2014 - 2015

National Center for Education Statistics, 2017
The Present Problem

ELL vs. non-ELL

Graduation rate

Portland Public School District - the largest school district in Oregon:  
72.21% for non-ELLs versus 49.43% for ELLs

David Douglas School District:  
78.16% for non-ELLs versus 56.00% for ELLs.
The Present Problem

ELL vs. non-ELL

Portland Public School District bilingual programs

Spanish (20 schools),
Chinese (5 schools),
Japanese (3 schools),
Russian (3 schools),
Vietnamese (1 school).
The Present Problem

**ELL-ULs as a subgroup of ELLs**

ELL-UL are the “invisible ELL students”

Public School Districts have economically difficulties to support bilingual education. *Then, how can ELL-UL benefit for bilingual programs?!*

No Studies (YET!) for ELL-UL students

Data from ELL studies
ELL-ULs and ESL

The Present Problem

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE, NOT CONSIDERING MATERNAL LANGUAGE
The Present Problem

ELL-ULs and Bilingual Programs

Romanian students (Portland area) = ELL-ULs

No bilingual program

No bilingual public charter schools

What happens to ELL-UL students who are left out?
“A people's relationship to their heritage is the same as the relationship of a child to its mother.” (John Henrik Clarke)

“Heritage is something that can be passed from one generation to the next, something that can be conserved or inherited, and something that has historic or cultural value.” (Rodney Harrison)
“The concept of ‘heritage’ also provides one of the central characteristics of the phrase which determine its legal significance. It would include such elements as the ‘material culture, ritual culture, symbolic culture’ and even ‘language-as-culture, values, beliefs’, while, in some circumstances, ‘ideas ideologies, [and] meanings’ might also be included.” (Janet Blake)
Heritage, defined by:

- language (including dialects),
- traditions,
- meanings,
- beliefs,
- artistic expressions,
- ideas, ideologies, and
- value systems.

Main “practices of heritage”:

language & culture
Muriel Saville-Troike considers

- **Language**, represented by:
  
  *moral* and *ethical* norms  
  (are defined in the social behaviors)

- **Language**, as tip of the culture

  “*Language does affect perception!*” (Muriel Saville-Troike)

**Language**, formed by: body language, guttural sounds, symbols.
Body language is the first way of:

- Learning a language
- Expressions (of feelings and needs)
- Communication

First learned from the mother!

Children are experts on reading body language
“Cultures, along with the religions that shape and nurture them, are value systems, sets of traditions and habits clustered around one or several languages, producing meaning: for the self, for the here and now, for the community, for life.” (Tariq Ramadan)

*Cultural-pride* is an emotion generated by the feeling of pleasure in what ancestors did well and what has remained through time; a passion that occurs in childhood, continuing in adulthood, will bind to long-term moral actions.
Enculturation

The cultural heritage is tight also to the body

Enculturation of the Mind and Body

Losing cultural pride results in psychological disorders

Cultural pride, as self-conscious emotion, involves a complex of self-evaluative processes in regards to motivating social behavior, becoming “a fundamental human emotion” (Tracy & Robins, 2007, p. 147).

Education: an environment in which emotions are at its core.
Pride

1. Inter-connected with:
   - embarrassment
   - shame

2. A reflection of High-Self-Esteem

3. High-Self-Esteem - important role for promoting *achievement*
Development of Language + Enculturation Process = Social Identity

Three main components of social identity:

(a) *self-categorization* - the cognitive component, as being aware of a group membership

(b) *group self-esteem* - the evaluative component, as the negative or positive implication of this membership

(c) *affective commitment* - the emotional component, as a sense of emotional involvement with the group
Low Self-Esteem determines the pursue of Self-Esteem (as a normal reaction of self-worth)

Pursuing self-esteem can lead to depression

Questioning the legitimacy of schooling - a step toward becoming at-risk learners

Studies draw the connection between at-risk students and a high rate of school dropouts
ELL-ULs & BILINGUAL PROGRAMS

BILINGUAL ENVIRONMENT

Acclimation Process
1. Discrepency levels
   children-parents
2. Less school attendance

Bicultural Identity
1. Self-confidence
2. Cultural intelligence

Social Interaction

INSTRUCTION IN MATERNAL & ENGLISH LANGUAGES

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
A method that:

- Can increase language awareness for bilingual speakers
- Creates interaction between the two languages (mother language & English)

The consciousness of languages’ values
Developing a better lexicon
Understanding the characteristic meanings of each language
CONCLUSION

Constructing bilingualism and biculturalism leads to a better acceptance and understanding of multiculturalism

“The environment creates disabilities!”
(LeDerek Horne)

To complete the American’s education task:

Filling the gap for ELL-ULs!
REFERENCES (1)


