Emotional Intelligence in Foreign Language Acquisition

Eva Trumpešová-Rudolfová
Masaryk University
Phone options

- Silent mode
  Sound is OFF

- Flight mode
  Flight mode is off

- Power off
TO ARTISTS, COMEDIANS, AND OTHERS

Anyone who wishes to study the true dramatic expression of the Tragic Muse in the act of drinking the last bitter cup of despair to the very dregs, should watch a young mother teaching the elements of music to her first-born.
When some children are randomly selected and their teacher is told they are likely to bloom intellectually over the next few months, they do. This is the self-fulfilling fulfilling prophecy.

(Rosenthal, 1985)
Emo Int in the classroom

- showing the students how to become lifelong learners rather than studying for being able to pass the exams
- constantly challenging their learning, assumptions and views
Comfort zone

Your comfort zone

Where the magic happens
Panic zone

- PANIC ZONE!!
- learning zone
- comfort zone
Howard Gardner
Multiple Intelligences

EXISTENTIALIST philosopher theorist
INTERPERSONAL counselor politician salesperson
INTRAPERSONAL researcher novelist entrepreneur

VISUAL/SPATIAL navigator sculptor architect
BODILY/KINESTHETIC athlete firefighter actor

NATURALIST environmentalist farmer botanist
LOGICAL/MATHMATICAL engineer programmer accountants
VERBAL/LINGUISTIC journalist teacher lawyer
MUSICAL/RHYTHMIC musician composer disk jockey

www.sitemaker.umich.edu
Feelings

- our messengers

- the need to „take our emotional temperature“ (Goleman)

- Whatever you do, there is an undercurrent of feeling going on with crucial information.
...so our students need to

- be aware of their comfort zone
- be able to detect the boundaries
- learn to CONSCIOUSLY step out of them
- be emotionally literate to decode the feelings and do something about them
Emotional Intelligence

- the ability to identify and manage your own emotions and the emotions of others

- a set of skills that use the information system of emotions
Key points

- **access to this system** (being aware of those emotions)
- **ability to identify emotions in oneself and other people** (verbal or nonverbal cues)
- **understanding emotions** – how they blend together and change (language)
Most importantly

- **managing emotions** - regulating them (calming or motivating oneself, or, with others - engaging them) and
- **using emotions** for production of something creative
Elements of Emotional Intelligence that make a difference in language learning

- Ability to take direction and feedback (not getting offended) and then self-direct oneself
Elements of Emotional Intelligence that make a difference in language learning

- Self-reflection, self-assessment and self-confidence

gretchenrubin.com
Elements of Emotional Intelligence that make a difference in language learning

- **Perseverance** (it’s good to do things you are not good at)

https://ottomat3ch.wordpress.com/tag/perseverance/
Elements of Emotional Intelligence that make a difference in language learning

- **Ability to concentrate** – “Attention is our most precious resource.” (Goleman)
Elements of Emotional Intelligence that make a difference in language learning

- Ability to survive change and keep adapting to it – innovators (highly prized now) are open to more possibilities and therefore
- our aims as educators should be widening our students’ horizons and encouraging creative and innovative solutions with an array of strategies (angel’s advocates)
Elements of Emotional Intelligence that make a difference in language learning

- Finding a mentor, or someone to practice with (useful in language learning)
Elements of Emotional Intelligence that make a difference in language learning

- Willing to try harder:

  “In scientific work, excellence is not about technical competence, but character.” (Ernest O.Lawrence, a Nobel Laureate)
Elements of Emotional Intelligence that make a difference in language learning

- Grounded intuitions – secret weapon now much sought after (whether in management or in deciding the correct tenses)
Elements of Emotional Intelligence that make a difference in language learning

- **Emotional awareness** – fundamental (how I am feeling and why, realize the links between feelings and behaviour, recognize how they affect my performance)
All these competencies are LEARNED so we can learn better and we need to start by being AWARE...
By FOCUSing. Our ability to focus determines how well we perform any task.
“Attention in all its varieties represents a little-noticed and underrated mental asset.” (Goleman: Focus)
Works like a muscle. Your focus is your reality (Yoda)
Test question

• Are you all paying attention now?
or

• Are you in a state of continuous partial attention?
Herbert Simon Nobel-winning economist in 1977: what information consumes is “the attention of its recipients. Hence a wealth of information creates a poverty of attention...”
And the winner is...

- **Re-focus**: from negative to positive, (from tv to the textbook). We learn better if we feel positively.
Conclusion

- Emotional intelligence as the cornerstone of any learning.
- Emo Int – mother intelligence
...and in Languages?

- Combining language learning and emotional intelligence boosts both (e.g. Self-reflective exercises), grows exponentially
What is the best way to learn a language?

Ellen Bialystock (bilingualism expert at York University, Canada) who said: “The truth is that there is no easy way to pick up a language – you have to live it, study it, read it, eat it and breathe it.”
What is the best way to learn a language?

- to do all this hard work, you need to be emotionally intelligent
- And find your own way
or just be plain stubborn ...
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

When it is all finished, you will discover it was never random.

Unknown

Words @ MyBeautifulWords.com

qtrumpes@fi.muni.cz
Sources

Goleman, D 2013, Focus, Bloomsbury, London.
http://ei.yale.edu