

TALE mini-conference

Time: 13.30-18.00, June 10th, 2016

Place: Studio 111 (1st floor on the left, Main Building), University of Debrecen

PROGRAM

13.30-14.00 Registration (drinks and coffee provided)

14.00-15.00 *Classroom-based language assessment: the needs and beliefs of English teachers and students*
by **Ildikó Csépes and Adrienn Fekete (University of Debrecen, Hungary)**

The talk will introduce the three-year long Erasmus+ project entitled 'Teachers' Assessment Literacy Enhancement (TALE)' that involves a network of five European countries (Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Hungary and the UK), joining forces to create an efficient and sustainable training infrastructure for English Language Teachers (ELTs) to help them develop relevant assessment literacy. The TALE Project aims to reconfigure language assessment to promote the productive involvement of teachers, trainers and students in order to improve language learning. In our presentation, we will give a report on the first phase of the project that focused on the needs analysis of teachers and students through a survey questionnaire with the intention that the training course designed for the purposes of the project would meet their actual needs. The most important findings will be discussed not only to highlight the beliefs of EFL teachers, trainee teachers and learners in Hungary but also to provide some insights into how language testing and assessment needs vary in the four countries under investigation (Cyprus, Germany, Greece, and Hungary).

Ildikó CSÉPES is a senior lecturer and teacher trainer at the Institute of English and American Studies of Debrecen University. Her main research interests include foreign language testing, classroom-based assessment and second language acquisition in formal contexts. She has participated in national testing projects (e.g. the Hungarian Examinations Reform Project of the British Council). For 10 years she was a member, and for six years the chair, of the Hungarian Accreditation Board for Foreign Language Exams.

Adrienn FEKETE is a junior lecturer at Institute of English and American Studies of Debrecen University and a PhD student in the Educational and Cultural Studies Program, Doctoral School for Humanities, University of Debrecen. Her main interests include language testing, developing and assessing intercultural competence, teaching culture in the English classroom, the acculturation process, and developing language skills.

15.00-15.30 *From quality assessment to more effective FL teaching*
by **Olga Kvasova (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine)**

Students' achievements in FL learning in Ukrainian higher education are established on the basis of the scores they get on summative tests. These tests are generally prepared by teachers since there are no special test development units in Ukrainian universities. The surveys of teachers' assessment competence conducted in 2010 and 2013 proved that the majority of university teachers have not received any training in language testing. The need for pre-set and in-set teacher training in LTA was recognized by all respondents who view quality assessment

as a powerful tool to raise the quality of teaching and learning FL. So far a series of training events (workshops and seminars) was conducted by me in seven universities of Ukraine followed by publications of workshop materials in the leading national FLT journals. The workshops received positive feedback from their participants which prompted the development of a curriculum 'Enhancement of assessment competence of university teachers of English'. With two modules of the curriculum piloted in 2014, it became obvious that the large-scale implementation of the curriculum requires a joint effort of Ukrainian LTA enthusiasts and the scientific coordination and advice from leading EU experts in the field. ILTA-funded workshop conducted by Professor Anthony Green in September 2015 in Kyiv made it possible to establish the Ukrainian Association for LTA whose activities are planned to promote assessment competence of FL university teachers across Ukraine.

Olga KVASOVA is a PhD holder, Associate Professor at Institute of Philology of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine, where she lectures in FLT and management of cross-cultural communication. She publishes broadly in the national journals for teachers and is an author of a course book *Fundamentals of Language Testing* (in Ukrainian) for student teachers. Her research interests lie in the field of classroom-based assessment and teacher training in LTA. She is the President of the nascent Ukrainian Association for LTA.

15.30-16.00 *English Language Teaching and Assessment in the Romanian Secondary School System*
by **Valentina Carina Muresan** (West University of Timisoara, Romania)

The presentation draws attention upon several major issues related to the current English language teaching practices within the Romanian secondary education system and their impact on language assessment and testing. Thus, relying on the presenter's personal PHD research and her experience as oral examiner for the Cambridge English exams, she will start from a brief analysis of the English language teaching methodology in use, the favoured textbooks and activities, in order to underline the implications for developing language proficiency for language exams. In this context, she will focus on the favoured English language exams and tests, from elementary to secondary school, such as admission to bilingual schools, national standardised exams and the English Olimpiad or public speaking contests. Finally, her presentation will focus on two particular examples of assessment scales she has developed with colleagues in secondary education, which emerged out of an identified need for transparency and relevance in assessment.

Valentina Carina MUREȘAN has a PhD from the West University of Timisoara in English Applied Linguistics, with a research on oral classroom discourse. She is currently working as a junior lecturer at the Department of English, at the West University of Timisoara, Romania. Her research interests and published papers have focused on various aspects of applied linguistics, language teaching methodology, discourse analysis and translation studies. Her professional activity also includes participating in teacher training activities for professionals working in secondary education.

16.00-18.00 **Networking – Buffet dinner (with cold and hot meals, refreshments)**

The event is open to invited participants only. Please confirm your interest in attending the event through the link below, preferably no later than May 25th, 2016.

LINK: <http://goo.gl/forms/CiyprLaevC>