

This Issue

The current issue of *the ES*pecialist, vol. 35, n. 2, discusses the theme of language teaching and learning in several contexts using different approaches, and also the Teletandem theme.

In the first article, Bizio addresses the acquisition of the mother tongue by deaf individuals. According to the Bilingualism approach, Sign Language is considered L1, while Portuguese writing is considered second language – L2. The author also addresses the deaf person's relation with language.

Vian Jr, in the second article, discusses possible approaches to English teaching in the business context and in economics, business administration and accounting undergraduate courses based on learners' needs. The author presents six different approaches: task-based, deep end, case study, lexical, genre-based, focus on gambits and focus on business skills.

Silva, the author of the third article, debates how video games can promote learning in general, in addition to fostering the development of receptive and expressive skills in the English language. The author argues that video games can contribute to informal English language learning, based on theories about the seven functions of language for children, as well as on the concept of participatory culture.

The fourth article, written by Piccardi, discusses the use of the “sustainability” formula in the area of health from the experience of volunteers working in this area. She also investigates the usefulness of this linguistic-discursive concept to understand the social contexts in which certain lexical items are circulating as formula.

The theme of Teletandem is discussed in the fifth and sixth articles of this issue. In the fifth article, Aranha and Cavalari present the road taken by the Teletandem Brasil Project, and describe the modifications that occurred regarding the implementation of Teletandem activities, which implies changes from a non-integrated modality to an integrated one. In order to do so, they describe a partnership between UNESP (*Universidade Estadual Paulista*) and UGA (University of Georgia). In the sixth article, Brocco and Baptista investigate how two Brazilian interactants build their culture to two foreign interactants in a Teletandem context, as this environment is considered favorable to the exchange of cultural aspects. The analyzed data indicate that there were comparisons between cultures, generalizations, and stereotype constructions, due to the individualization of the culture from the Brazilians' point of view.

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