

ABSTRACTS

HEGYBÍRÓ KONTRA, EDIT – PINIEL, KATALIN – CSIZÉR, KATA: Goals, successes and challenges in the foreign language learning of deaf and hard-of-hearing students

Keywords: *foreign language teaching, Deaf and hard-of-hearing language learners*

This study provides insight into the work of foreign language teachers at special schools for Deaf and severely hard-of-hearing learners. In line with the principles of qualitative research, the researchers' aim is to provide an insider's perspective and achieve a deep understanding of the issues that determine the work of the participants. As part of a nation-wide project, the researchers visited nine different institutions for hearing impaired students and conducted individual, semi structured interviews with ten teachers of English and German. The content analysis of the interview transcripts led to the emergence of three most salient categories: the goals of foreign language teaching at these special schools, the possible successes students and teachers achieve, and the

necessary measures that should be taken into consideration in order to make the language teaching and learning process more effective. In order to help this group of special needs students have equal access to the benefits of foreign language knowledge it seems necessary to revise the system of exemptions and accommodations, as well as the regulations of the school leaving exam in foreign languages. Effective communication between students and teachers could be enhanced by promoting sign language learning among school staff. An important task to solve is the development of target-group appropriate teaching methods and materials and the provision of networking opportunities for teachers.

SÉLLEI, BEATRIX: Change as an Opportunity

Keywords: *managing change, public education, positive psychology*

This study examines the changes of the Hungarian education system from the point of view of the reactions of those concerned, the teachers. The survey was done by qualitative method. Participants were the students of a training for educational leaders by the Budapest Uni-

versity of Technology and Economy (n=169) and data were collected in two sessions. The first session revealed their attitudes to the ongoing changes, most of which have a positive and a negative side too. The second session, as an approach-shaping training, presented positive

psychology techniques. These help to reframe complicated situations as opportunities for development, and give a practical guidance for stress-management and the learning of an optimist approach. In the second part of the training, instead of focusing on the risks associated with changes, we emphasised the opportunities in them. This had an effect that was

perceivable from the posters and oral presentations as well. In short, when we draw attention of people to their resources, and to what they have to pay attention to while coping with changes, or if we develop their personalities, then they become able of effectively managing changes, and also to maintain these positive attitudes.



Vendégek az Amadé-Bajzáth-Pappenheim kastélyban