Lifting adult migrants to learn Swedish through translingual assistance

Alpha 2023: Workshop

Oliver St John
School of Humanities,
Education and Social Sciences



1

An action research project

Four AR phases:

- 1. Orienting to the research foci
 - Models of work with bilingual language assistants?
 - Coordinating classroom interaction?
 - Development of new pedagogical roles?
 - L1 for AL?
 - Professional development?
- 2. Mapping current practice.
 - Teacher constellations
 - Teachers video filmed their classroom interaction with BLAs
 - To make visible teacher classroom practice

An action research project

Four AR phases:

- 3. Turning data into action
 - Analysis as basis for change and development
 - Deciding which strategies/changes seem best to attain goals
 - Devising an action plan
- 4. Seeking to achieve change
 - Documenting the implementation of new strategies/changes
 - Reflecting over the results of professional action
 - Integrating positive results into professional practice

3

Two vocabulary learning sequences (before/after)

Group discussion after watching the clips:

1. Compare

What are the differences between the 2 clips regarding: Teacher and BLA roles? Pedagogical practice? Student participation? Use of language?

2. Assess

What do you see as the advantages/disadvantages of each way of organizing and trying to support adult migrants' AL vocabulary learning?

3. Development

What are the pedagogical implications of your assessment for BLA-supported vocabulary learning with adult migrants on AL beginner courses.

Introducing a new theme (before/after)

Discuss:

- 1. Differences/Similarities between the "before and "after" activities
- 2. The purpose of the two ways of introducing the new theme
- 3. The involvement of the BLAs
- 4. Student voices
- 5. How one might follow up each of activities.

5

An important question!

How can language teachers use their adult migrant students' L1s to promote AL learning when they don't have BLAs to help them?