



This is Misbah's Reflective Diary on her year, which has won a prize from the ALL volunteer *Social Zoom* organising group in Summer 2024. (Details to follow.)

At the start of this school year I was brimming with excitement and eager anticipation.

My main goal was to instil a passion for languages in my students, aiming to make the learning process both enjoyable and rewarding. However I also grappled with the workload needed to prepare lesson plans and assignments.

Despite these challenges my aspirations extended beyond achievement; I also hoped for personal growth, for each student. My vision was to be an inspiring and empowering teacher with an objective to enhance the use of the target language within my classroom.

Throughout the year, I realised how demanding the workload truly was. The early months required a lot of effort, as I spent

countless hours creating detailed lesson plans and grading assignments. At times, it seemed overwhelming. But, despite these challenges, the experiences allowed me to grow and learn.

One memorable moment was introducing a new interactive language app. Although some students were initially hesitant, through perseverance and creativity, it eventually became a favourite tool. This showed me the value of determination and innovation in teaching.

A major achievement for me was successfully incorporating more target language into my classes. By consistently using routine phrases and strategically decorating the classroom with visual aids, I managed to achieve 80%-95% target language usage in my lessons. This immersive environment encouraged students to practise the target language regularly, improving their skills and boosting their confidence.

In the middle of the year, I encountered a tough period where some students lacked motivation. It was a humbling experience that highlighted the importance of empathy and understanding in teaching. To address this issue, I introduced more culturally relevant materials and personalised learning plans, which helped reignite the students' interest.

Moreover, participating in professional development gatherings like the ALL Language World Conference and EPI workshops hosted by Conti was truly inspiring. These events offered new perspectives and creative strategies that I eagerly integrated into my teaching methods. **The enthusiasm I gained from these conferences fuelled my dedication and kept me motivated throughout the year.**

I greatly valued the unwavering support from my school and university mentors on this journey. Their guidance, feedback and encouragement were instrumental in helping me navigate difficulties and celebrate achievements. Their confidence in my abilities as a language educator boosted my self-assurance and dedication to professional development.

As the academic year drew to a close, the workload gradually lightened. There was a sense of relief when I submitted the final assignment, marking the end of a year filled with hard work. This moment brought a **deep feeling of pride and achievement**, not just for completing tasks but for successfully overcoming challenges while staying committed to supporting my students learning and growth. Now, as I reflect on where I stand, **I realise that my core principles as a teacher have deepened. Adaptability, empathy, and cultural responsiveness have become cornerstones of my teaching philosophy. I strive to be not just an instructor but a facilitator of meaningful and relevant learning experiences.** My goal is to create a classroom atmosphere where every student feels valued and motivated to explore the world of languages. As I look ahead to applying these reflections in my teaching, I want to strike a balance between meeting curriculum requirements and fostering a supportive, lively and inclusive learning atmosphere. My aspiration is to motivate my students to embrace learning and value the beauty and practicality of languages in connecting with the world.

To sum up this year has been a period of growth. Learning for both my students and myself. Reflecting on these experiences has strengthened my commitment to being a adaptable and caring educator. I carry forward the lessons learned and an enduring passion, for teaching language.

Misbah Butt