

# FINDING YOUR FOCUS IN A *FOCUS ON FORM* APPROACH

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# ON LEARNING

To be a true teacher, you must be a learner first. Indeed, teachers' own passion for learning inspires their students as much as their expertise does

*Peter Senge*



MY  
LEARNER'S  
HAT



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# FINDING MY FOCUS

- Not formally trained
- Experiential x 2 types of knowing
  - Knowing in action
  - Reflection
- AR – supports my view of professionalism

# DEFINITIONS & DISTINCTIONS

## *Focus on form*

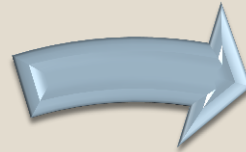
- ‘ teachers’ draw students’ attention to specific forms which occur in the course of a task or associated text’

Willis & Willis 2007

## *Focus on forms*

- An approach where the syllabus focuses on the linguistic item to be taught (Long 2005)
- ‘different parts of the language are taught step by step ... a gradual accumulation of parts’

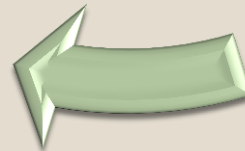
**analysis  
and theory  
generation**



**finding a  
starting  
point**



**clarifying  
the  
situation**



**developing  
action  
strategies**



# FINDING A STARTING POINT / CLARIFYING THE SITUATION

- Journal entries
  - Feedback – concrete feedback
- Analyse lesson plans
  - Clear patterns
- Problematising
  - Frame the problem – how, why,
- Analyse transcription



# ANALYSIS & THEORY GENERATION

- Grammatical consciousness raising / noticing
  - Semantic concepts
    - Fixed/semi fixed expressions
    - Questions
  
  - Word or part of a word
    - Cross language
    - Reference training
    - Hypothesis building
  
  - Categories of meaning
  
- (Willis & Willis 2007 & Rutherford 1980)

# ACTIVITIES

- Underline phrases 'giving advice'
- Key word / phrase transformation
- How would you say this in Finnish?
- Underline all the questions and categorise
- Collocations
- Dictionary
- Record your own 4 words/phrases
- Choose useful advice

# IN CLASS

- Discussion
- Dictogloss
- Collocation 'Alias'
- Paraphrasing
- Give a presentation

# EVALUATION

- 2 factors
    - The 'e' factor
    - The 'a' factor
- (Thornbury 2007)



# CALL TO ACTION

## ■ Questions

- How effective would this approach be with regards to meeting your own / learners' needs?
- What opportunities does this offer for professional development?



**THANK  
YOU!**

*humanising the  
learning  
experience*