FINDING YOUR FOCUS IN A FOCUS ON FORM APPROACH

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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*
FINDING MY FOCUS

- Not formally trained

- Experiential x 2 types of knowing
  - Knowing in action
  - Reflection

- AR – supports my view of professionalism
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’
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
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)
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
2 factors

- The ‘e’ factor
- The ‘a’ factor

(Thornbury 2007)
Questions

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