THE IMPORTANCE OF VISUALS IN CONTENT AND LANGUAGE INTEGRATED LEARNING MATERIALS

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Visual elements and aspects of these Content and Language Integrated learning materials play crucial and salient roles in reinforcing and concretizing the linguistic objectives of the Content and Language Integrated Learning approach. Visual elements that are integrated in the format of these materials support the concepts and applications of CLIL. Pictures, designs, images and other visual elements are integrated in the materials to visualize the linguistic meanings and applications of this approach. For instance, images integrated in localized stories are useful in portraying the local scenarios and cultural aspects in the community. Format and other visual elements help the learners perceive, understand and appreciate the concrete inputs incorporated in CLIL materials. These visuals include pictures of local residents in a particular locality, comics/cartoons portraying the ways of life of local folks and other captivating and meaningful visual representation in these materials.

The format and visual elements of CLIL materials help learners clarify and comprehend meanings while reading in many ways. It is highly important that CLIL reading materials are well-formatted and attributed with attractive and appealing visual elements and inputs in order to help learners comprehend the vocabulary being used in the text and the meanings of concepts and scenarios represented in the material. Visuals help children comprehend and recognize the use of dual languages in CLIL materials. For instance, representing a certain vocabulary in both mother tongue and English could be well-understood by the learners with the aid of visual images.
Despite the potential for CLIL to offer educational benefits in two distinct areas (language and content), it also challenges teachers and students alike in the sense that language and content teachers should work together in collaboration and share their skills. This means they have to combine methods and techniques of two subjects” (Massler, 2010:12). Also for students, the dual focus of CLIL means that the amount of workload in class can be too demanding.

References:

https://rate.org.ro/blog2.php/1/content-language-integrated-learning-in