



The 2nd CBLA SIG Symposium Programme
'Learner's Perspective in Language Testing and Assessment'

Friday 4th and Saturday 5th November, 2011
Hosted by the Department of English Studies, University of Cyprus

1. What is your view of the theme of the 2nd CBLA SIG Symposium?

I found it really interesting and am very glad I attended.

I think it was very inspiring.

The theme was very interesting and close to my research area.

The topic was timely and relevant to current language teaching concerns.

I found the theme of the symposium interesting especially the theme covered concerning the validity as well as the reliability that has to characterize the tests a teacher designs. All these issues were also covered in one of my university courses and I was excited to hear about their importance again. I also found helpful the fact that we could discuss some topics with the teachers who have more experience. The discussion with them, get me into thinking about some things that I should implement in my lessons as a new teacher. I also liked the fact that the teachers of Cyprus are aware of the idea of the portfolio which was a theme we have discussed in one of my courses at the university.

Very interesting theme.

It was an excellent choice – it is a really interesting theme.

I found it really interesting and am very glad I attended.

The theme was appropriate and interesting.

Good topic, relevant to presenters. Lots of potential for research.

It was a theme that really gained the respect of the participants since it is an urgent issue nowadays. The theme of the 2nd CBLA Symposium was amazing

It is really topical for LTA as long as assessment should be as learner-centred as teaching. They (assessment and teaching/learning) are inseparable.

I can say it was just to the point. Very much related to recent needs in Language Testing and Assessment field.

The theme was interesting because we tend to forget the learner's perspective and perhaps this is an area we should investigate further as instructors.

The theme of the Symposium is what attracted me to attend it. I believe that it is important for every teacher (or teacher to be) to inform himself regarding this issue. I found it very insightful.

2. What is your opinion of the content of the Symposium programme?

I really enjoyed it and found it very informative.

I think it was interesting.

The workshops were helpful as we had the chance to discuss in our groups.

The content was as advertised and appropriate.

A variety of interesting themes was covered such as the importance of the feedback to the students and how the teachers should find new methods to enhance the learning and always have in mind the needs and opinions of the students.

Very good content, especially on Friday.

The topics of the presentations and workshops were very interesting – I believe that they covered issues which everyone, working in the teaching and/or assessment field, should be aware of.

I really enjoyed it and found it very informative.

Good and well-balanced.

It was an excellent programme and it gave us the opportunity to expand some fields of our studies in depth.

Perfectly relevant to the theme.

It was very helpful especially for novice teachers.

Interesting, in particular the critique of the European Framework's perspectives on evaluation.

I found it enlightening and it exceeded my expectations.

3. What did you find particularly useful for you personally?

The way in which you can get feedback, how important that feedback is and how beneficial it can be.

The information regarding alternative assessment in Sweden.

The discussion on formative and peer assessment and the discussion about portfolios.

The need to incorporate more communicative aspects into assessment, especially participatory engagement.

I liked the fact that we had the chance to discuss with experienced teachers and get an insight into the teaching of English in Cyprus and elsewhere.

I appreciated the possibility to know other experiences.

I found the content of the presentation and workshop held on Saturday highly useful since I actually use such frameworks (CEFR) to assess my own students. Moreover, several issues related to my own area of research were raised by the plenary speakers, as well as the symposium participants (e.g. issues concerning test validity and reliability), which was more than useful.

The way in which you can get feedback, how important that feedback is and how beneficial it can be.

The exchange of experiences with different colleagues and the presentations of the speakers.

The focus on self - and peer assessment and teachers' reflective materials.

Having a chance to meet with other people in our field and share ideas with them.

Listening to participants' views on testing and assessment in the Cypriot context.

The fact that I had the opportunity to discuss with other colleagues and find out how they deal with issues of testing and assessment. The presentations and workshops offered me knowledge in an area that I do not know that well.

The presentation held by the EALTA representative was of particular use for me.

4. What did you find less useful for you personally?

The session on Saturday.

The discussion on IELTS compared to the CEFR.

For me everything was useful.

As far as I am concerned, the workshop held on Friday was rather too “theoretical”; in my opinion, it would be more useful if the participants were more involved in the discussion and analysis of the assessment examples which were presented.

The second one.

I found everything useful 😊.

5. Did you have sufficient opportunity to discuss and participate?

Ample.

Yes, indeed.

Yes, both in the group session and the whole class session.

Yes no problems with discussions, which took place during the breaks as well as during the sessions.

Yes, we had sufficient opportunity to share our experiences too.

Yes, fruitful discussion took place among people sitting around my table concerning several issues raised at the presentations, including the assessment methods that each one of us uses in his/her teaching situation, as well as the ways that the content of the presentations and workshops relates to our own areas of research.

Ample.

Yes, although I could only attend the Friday session.

Yes, particularly during the workshops.

Yes, I did.

Yes. We were sitting in small groups which helped us discuss.

Yes, definitely.

Yes ☺ I was sorry I could not attend both days.

There was enough time given to discuss and participate throughout the conversations. I believe that everything was well-timed.

6. How did you find the atmosphere during the Symposium?

Engaging.

It was very warm.

The atmosphere was very friendly and everyone was willing to talk about different issues.

Inform, relaxed and congenial.

The two presenters were very nice and open to discussion.

Very friendly.

Very warm and friendly.

Very friendly and comfortable.

Pleasant and constructive. Good moderation particularly in the first workshop.

Pleasant.

The atmosphere was most constructive, thought-provoking and promoting mutual understanding among professionals from many parts of Europe. Very warm, indeed.

Very friendly and academic!

It was pleasant, motivating and engaging.

The atmosphere during the Symposium was particularly friendly while at the same time of high professionalism. All members were participating in the conversations and offered their opinion.

7. How did you find the venue?

It was nice.

It was excellent.

It was very good. The room was comfortable and the catering (during breaks) was just what we needed.

The Classic Hotel's accommodation were fine for the number of participants.

Nice.

It was fine – there were no problems.

I found the venue acceptable although I would not have minded to be at the university again.

Lovely.

Fairly nice and comfortable.

Close to the centre, organized and cozy, which I would expect to see in a SIG symposium.

I thought it was appropriate for the number of participants and the nature of the symposium. What I think could be improved is seating arrangements.

8. Do you have any suggestions for next year's symposium?

More focus on alternative assessment methods in secondary education.

Continue the good work. Thanks for all your efforts.

I'd like to improve my knowledge on dynamic assessment.

It would be great if next year's symposium had a more "practical" orientation concerning CBLA. For example, after relevant presentations, workshops could be held engaging the participants in assessing real students' pieces of writing (or even in assessing students' reading, speaking or listening skills, through recordings or transcriptions of lessons). Moreover, in those workshops, the participants could share their views about the ways that CEFR descriptors can be used within various teaching and/or testing situations, e.g. EFL/ESL classrooms, EAP or ESP courses, higher education institutions etc.

The changing importance of pronunciation would be quite interesting.

The use of Information and Technology in the language testing

I would keep the workshop format to allow maximum participation. Maybe ask teachers to bring material themselves, e.g. learner texts, or work on some concrete learner texts e.g. for oral assessment.

To develop this year's theme, I'd like to look into washback issues.

SIG symposiums can take place in a different country every year.

It would be interesting to learn more about peer assessment and the role of instructor's feedback.