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TANDEM

How to apply and demystify a method



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Outline

- Development of a method (the 1990 years)
- Tandem in Europe: it is working, so what?
 - Various Networks before the 1990 years
 - Individual tandem-action(s)
- What is Tandem in the internet?
- Going Global: Challenges
- What we don't know

Development of a method



A definition of tandem learning:

"When learning a language in tandem, two people with different mother tongues working together in order to learn from each other" (Brammerts 2003: 28)

Central for the method is:

- Learner autonomy: no one's goals and skills
- Reciprocity: helping and understanding the partner

Tandem-Server University Bochum, Link (also to other Servers)
International E-Mail Tandem Network, 1993

Development of a method

History



Tandem Foundation, established 1994

The method goes back to the 1800, then called „mutual system“ (by Joseph Lancaster and Daniel Bell). It was also used in Germany (Jenaplan, Peter Peterson) and in the USA (tutor model). The term „tandem“ was first used 1971 in language lessons of the Fraco-German Youth office (Deutsch Französisches Jugendwerk), this Tandem-Tradition is alive! 1982 Jürgen Wolf (with partners) is founding the Escuela International Tandem, which becomes the Tandem Fundazioa (Foundation) in 1993. The Tandem Foundation is still active. They are holding the licence on the Tandem-trademark, doing training on tandem, working with various partners, esp. with the private Tandem language schools.

Tandem in Europe

Situation now



Looking for a partner at the university or at the adult evening classes (Volkshochschulen).

All around Europe people (especially Students) are looking for Tandem-Partners at their University. In this respect it is not difficult for Japanese Students in Europe to find language exchange partners.

Development of a method



Language Learning Research at the University Bochum (and elsewhere in Europe)

Learning-Parameters

- Are the learners adults or children?
- How often do the learners learn (once a week, or more)?
- Is it distance learning or do they meet in person?
- Do the learners have to pay for themselves?

Counselling for tandem learning

- Are teachers and counsellors identical?
- Is there a counselling for the tandem (pair)?
- What data can the counsellors use? (learnig diaries, direct observation, recorded data)
- How is counselling related to the instruction, learning ? etc.
- What Organisations (Institutions) are involved?

What is Tandem in the internet?



SEAGULL Tandem

<http://seagull-tandem.eu>

- EU-Lifelong Learning Project (11/2012 – 10/2015)
- Provides topic-worksheets for Tandem Learning in 11 languages
- The sheets are designed to "...to give a lot of scope for learner's investigations regarding their own cultural background in comparison to those of others, in an open self reflecting way." (Seagull HP)
- Also available: handout on didactics and advice regarding specific language phenomena
- Seagull propose to include Tandem in the normal curricula (including also ECTS and a certificate)



GLOBAL Tandem

<http://www.geocities.jp/dlinklist/DE/Unterricht/onlineLanguageLearning.html>

Challenges (1)

- *There are so many networking and online-learning pages in the Internet. Why rely on Tandem?*
- *Of course it CAN BE a successful learning languages with a partner, but what is the method there?*
- *Do we have evidence, that Tandem (whatever method it is?) is really working?*

What we don't know....

- *Tandem is a big network, but very unclear in it's structure*
- *Teachers (and researchers) don't know much about how the learning is really taking place*
- *We need more information for our (rather shy) Japanese learners*

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Thank you very much for your attention!