Proposal for LA Regional CATESOL Conference

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Levels: Adult, Community College, College/University, Intensive English Program

Title: A Visual Pathway for Teaching Idioms to Adult ESL Students

Presentation Summary:

In English, idioms are used freely and frequently. However, it is widely known that the multi-word units that make up idioms are difficult to teach and learn because their meanings are not literal. It is highly important that L2 learners acquire, understand, and use idiomatic expressions as a pathway to proficiency. In recent years, research has focused on analyzing techniques to facilitate this path instead of students relying on rote memorization. It has been shown that for any subject, the more senses a learner employs, the easier the information is to retain and recall. This poster intends to present the technique of teaching and learning idioms through pictures. By ensuring the students' familiarity with the words used in the idiom, teaching the students the literal meaning, and providing a graphic image to associate with the idiom, our goal is to enhance the learning process of idioms for adult ESL students. (150)

Presentation Abstract:

The frequently used multi-word units that make up idioms are difficult to teach and learn. This poster intends to present a three-part technique for teaching adult ESL students idioms by ensuring familiarity with the words in the idioms, teaching the literal meanings, and providing picture associations. (46)