

3. Laufende Master- und Diplomarbeiten

Marinoto, Deise N. (current MA Project) *Polêmica e Controvérsia nas Interações de Teletandem. / Polemics and controversy in teletandem interactions.*

Abstract: One of the aims of the project Teletandem Brazil: foreign languages for all (Telles, 2006) is to address issues related to the cultural dimension of this online telecollaborative context, where peers who speak different languages help each other to learn their own language (or language of proficiency) with the use of voice, text and webcam images of soft wares such as Skype or Google Hangout. This project proposes to deal with the emergency and the treatment of controversial and contentious conversation themes that emerge during students' teletandem interactions and their subsequent mediation sessions that are carried out by the teachers. By drawing on qualitative data collection methods, on Grounded Theory and on Narrative Inquiry, this project aims at: (a) defining what controversial and contentious issues are in the virtual, autonomous, collaborative and intercultural communication context of teletandem; (b) describing the ways in which the two different interacting cultures approach and treat these issues, and (c) describing the different ways in which teachers of foreign languages deal with these issues during the mediation sessions that carried out after teletandem sessions. In line with these three objectives, the research questions of this project are: 1) What topics are considered controversial or contentious during teletandem interactions? 2) What are the reactions of teletandem practitioners when these issues arise during teletandem interactions; 3) How do they deal with such issues in the foreign language classroom? [Marinoto]

Rossatto Franco, Gabriela (current MA project) *Aspectos linguísticos emergentes nas formas de interagir em seções de Teletandem. [Übersetzung des Sachtitels: Study of emerging aspects in ways of interacting in Teletandem sessions.]*

Abstract: Learning languages in a virtual context has become an important way to develop linguistic, discursive and interactional abilities. Through the use of technological resources and in collaborative ways, new generations of Portuguese speakers in the world can experience situations of real use of the language by interacting with native (or competent) speakers. The project Teletandem Brazil is linked to the Center for Languages and Teacher Development of UNESP/Assis/SP/ Brazil. It promotes interaction between pair of students of Portuguese Linguistics and Literature in Brazil and students of other courses in universities around the world. During these interactions, the partners' aim is to learn each other's language. In this particular study, the interactions are among institutions where teacher-mediators can offer pedagogical support to participants. After teletandem sessions, these teacher-mediators offer the teletandem partners various reflective assessment strategies that can trigger contexts that favor reflection about language use and about the cultural aspects of foreign languages. This study presupposes that Brazilian participants of teletandem give explanations about the Portuguese language to their foreign partners. I will use these explanations as a starting point to observe how teletandem interactions can promote participants' critical language awareness. Collected data will provide reflections that may be helpful to improve the professional development of Portuguese Linguistics and Literature teachers. The research questions are the following: a) How do the Brazilian participants provide explanations about their own language to their foreign partners?; b) Which limitations and misunderstandings do Brazilian students have to face, as they explain their own mother tongue?; c) What are the pedagogical underpinnings of language students

becoming aware of their own mother tongue while teaching it to a person from another country and language? [Rossatto Franco]