

Conversation

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Abstract

This brief contribution offers a review of a book called *Conversation* published in a line of Resource books for teachers by OUP. The authors and the series editor Alan Maley have been all involved with English for some time. Either they have been teaching English as a foreign language or they were connected with British Council. They have participated in study materials writing where they share their teaching experience.

Keywords: conversation, English, teach, language, foreign, experience

Introduction

As the title *Conversation* by Rob Nolasco and Lois Arthur (2007) suggests the book focuses on conversation in the second language teaching, in this case specifically on English. Although some activities can be used when teaching other foreign language, one has to pay attention to the language structure and take into account life and institutions of a particular country. This book seeks to address effective second language conversation approach.

Single chapters

The book comprises five large sections. As for their structure, each one consists of a short introduction that is followed by activities tailored specifically for a topic development. Furthermore, there is information on level (from beginners to advanced learners), time consumption, and an aim of the activity, preparation, and description of individual steps of a particular task, remarks with experience, recommendation, solution, follow-up activities and task sheets.

Introductory part explains the meaning of conversation, deals with functions and units of conversation, there are also covered differences in conversation held by women and men, then stress and intonation and body language with gestures.

Following the introduction, chapter 1, *Towards a classroom approach*, draws the attention to learners and a teacher roles, a lesson preparation, acquainting students with lecturers expectations and the ways to achieve the planned tasks.

Chapter 2, *Controlled activities*, introduces getting-to-know-you activities. These are to help to create friendly study atmosphere when learners are relaxed. This sort of environment is considered a powerful tool for acquiring any kind of knowledge.

Chapter 3, *Awareness activities*, examines culture in the UK and the USA and offers a wide range of tasks to realize the key differences and thus the chapter makes the students being aware of this fact. Next, use of gestures and body language are drawn attention to. Also, phonetics oriented tasks are included (the pronunciation is considered a key skill by native speakers; it causes more obstacles in transferring messages than grammar mistakes). This chapter mainly concentrates on making feel the

user of English, as his / her second language, comfortable and familiar with the environment and on preventing from causing faux-pas or to react appropriately in various kinds of life situations.

Chapter 4, *Fluency activities*, introduces the possible ways of acquiring fluent speaking competence in real time (i.e. learners are to get familiar with social interaction, which is different from the classroom one). Learners are to get acquainted to express their views on common topics, no to be terrified of making a mistake, to concentrate more on the opportunity to share their own experiences or to exchange the opinions, e.g. in various discussions. The emphasis is put on learners' initiative (its extent corresponds with learners' motivation).

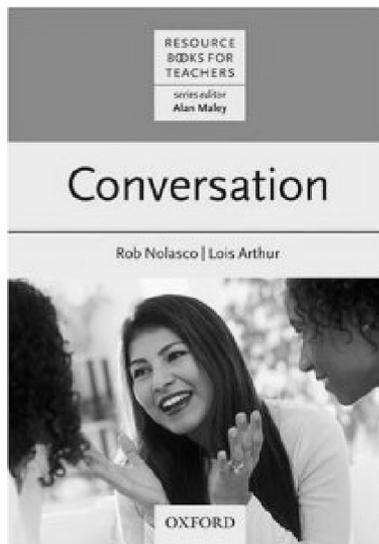
Chapter 5, *Feedback*, covers feedback forms, its importance and some practical proposals to perform feedback. It targets to improve and develop learners' communicative skills with stress on pronunciation, grammar, fluency, use of suitable vocabulary and body language.

Summary

All in all, the book proves to be a great tool in lessons preparation as it deals with various language areas and it offers activities for beginners to advanced learners. Next, students are learning by doing, they gain the essential skills and they are given the opportunity to build them up.

References

- NOLASCO, R. and L. ARTHUR, 2007. *Conversation*. Oxford: OUP. ISBN 978-19-437096-7.



Picture from

AMAZON. Conversation (Resource Books for Teachers). In: *Amazon.com* [online]. Amazon, c1996-2011 [cit. 2001-07-19]. Available from: <http://www.amazon.com/Conversation-Resource-Books-TeacherNolasco/dp/0194370968>

Conversation

Tento krátký příspěvek poskytuje přehled o knize s názvem *Conversation* publikované nakl. OUP v edici knih pro učitele. Autoři a editor série Alan Maley se již nějakou dobu angličtinou zabývají. Buď angličtinu vyučují jako cizí jazyk, nebo mají vazby na British Council. Spolupodíleli se na studijních materiálech, ve kterých se odrážejí jejich zkušenosti s výukou.

Klíčová slova: konverzace, angličtina, výuka, jazyk, cizí, zkušenost

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