Contemporary lesson planning frameworks for language teacher education

Jason Anderson

jasonanderson1@gmail.com

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www.jasonanderson.org.uk

Plan for the talk

- Initial discussion of challenges novice teachers face in preservice education with regard to structuring lessons
- Reflections on PPP (presentation-practice-production)
- My research into changing textbook structure
- CAP as simple starting point (useful at 'novice'¹ stage)
- TATE as more complex, flexible framework (at 'competent' ¹ stage)
- Eclecticism kicks in at 'proficient' ¹ stage (incl., e.g., TBLT, project-based, text-based and ESP foci)

1. Dreyfus and Dreyfus model of skill learning (1986).



- A. What lesson planning frameworks do you introduce on pre-service programs? What about early in-service?
- **B.** What dilemmas do you face when making this choice?

Two key dilemmas with regard to scaffolding learning:

- 1. Avoiding over-confusing novice teachers with too many frameworks / too much choice.
- The challenges of reconciling the need for responsive teaching with the need (often voiced by novice teachers) to be prepared.



Too much choice for novice teachers?

- Receptive skills lessons (pre-text during text post text)
- PPP (presentation practice production)
- TBLT (e.g., pre-task task post-task)
- Test Teach Test
- Project-based learning
- Others (ESA; ARC; OHE, etc.¹)

Ideally we want them to understand and be able to draw upon a variety, but it takes time to get there.

Especially for initial lessons, they need more guidance.

1. For an introduction to all of these, see <u>here</u>.

Responsive approaches in pre-service contexts

A number of methodologists emphasise the importance of providing responsive instruction based primarily on research on grammar acquisition:

- Long's 'focus on form' (1991)
- DOGME / teaching unplugged (Meddings & Thornbury, 2009)
- Dealing with 'emergent language' (Andon & Norrington-Davies, 2019)

All interesting and possible for proficient teachers, but how realistic are they for novice teachers?

The prevalence of PPP

- Firstly, there's nothing wrong with PPP (Anderson, 2016, 2017a). Research evidence indicates it's no less effective than TBLT (e.g., Li et al., 2016; Lu & Fan, 2021; Phuong et al., 2015).
- But... does it really reflect how we structure learning and teach grammar today?
- Textbooks units don't start with 'presentation'. They tend to start with texts to provide...
- context... followed by...
- analysis... and then...
- practice.
- CAP.

My research on how global coursebooks introduce new language



See Anderson (2017b) Context, analysis and practice.



Four types of context identified

- Image-supported: learners use images alone or images and text to understand context (e.g. matching text to images, ordering images, etc.).
- **Text-integrated:** learners complete or manipulate text to raise awareness of new language (e.g. gapped text, sentence ordering activity, etc.).
- Extensive text: learners read or listen to complete texts (e.g. article, interview, etc. >100 words). New language is noticed and analysed.
- No clear context: example sentences or very short dialogue (under 30 words) without images or clear indication of where, when, why, or by whom text was produced.

See Anderson (2017b) Context, analysis and practice.



Contexts for the introduction of new language in 1st editions of ELT coursebooks





See Anderson (2017b) Context, analysis and practice.

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THE NEW YORK SUBWAY HERO

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Imagine you are at a train station when a young man suddenly falls onto the train tracks. Everyone is aware of what has happened – but no one moves. What would you do if this happened to you?

- A Risk your life to save a stranger.
- B Do what everyone else is doing.
- C Call emergency services.

When faced with just such a situation, Wesley Autrey chose option A. Autrey was standing on a New York City subway platform when suddenly.

- just as the train was approaching, a young man fell onto the tracks. Without a second thought, Autrey jumped down and lay on top of the man in an attempt to save his life. The train went over them, but miraculously, both survived – with only
- centimeters between them and the train. Autrey's act of heroism was widely reported in the media and he soon became known as the Subway Hero.
- But while some people saw Autrey's act of bravery as commendable, others thought he was foolish to risk his life for a total stranger. Autrey himself doesn't think he did anything special. He said that for him, there was no other option. It was simply the right thing to do.

Autrey's act wa such a situation is, do nothing. I phenomenon, c Context

In one famous experiment, researchers observed a participant in a room while it began to fill with smoke. Thinking there must be a fire somewhere, 78% of the participants who were alone when they noticed the smoke left the room to report it. The experiment was repeated, this time while several other people – bystanders – were also present in the room. The others had been told to ignore the smoke. Now, only 10% of the participants reported the problem. Why?

One explanation for the bystander effect is our belief that everyone present when the event occurs

High Five by Roberta Revesz

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shares responsibility to act. If no one else is doing anything, why should we? In addition, most of us follow the rules of socially acceptable behavior. So, when other people do nothing, we assume that

HO CARES?

45 this must be an appropriate response. Perhaps the others understand the situation and have a good reason not to react.

Dr. Mark Levine is an expert in social psychology. When asked what makes some people behave like

- heroes, he replied that it often depends how connected we feel to other people. Our empathy for the victim, or lack of it, can make a difference. If we know the victim, or can imagine how he or she feels, we will be more likely to offer assistance
- 55 Another factor is our relationship to the other bystanders. In the presence of friends or relatives, the desire to make a good impression is very strong and can overcome the tendency to do nothing.

Unfortunately, the influence of the bystander effect is often stronger than our ability to feel empathy. For this reason, some countries have passed laws obliging people to be more socially responsible. France and Brazil, for example, have laws that make it mandatory to help a person in danger. Of course, you needn't risk your life in order to do so Offering assistance can be as simple as phoning emergency services.



USING LANGUAGE First and Second Conditional Grammar Reference, page 141

A 1 Read the example sentences.

First Conditional:

If you see someone in trouble on the street tomorrow, will you help them?

If we know the victim, we will be more likely to offer assistance.

Second Conditional:

What would you do if this happened to you? (It probably won't happen to you.)

If most people faced such a situation, they would choose option B. (Most people don't face this situation.)

2 Answer the questions.

- 1 Which conditional describes a situation that is possible in the future?
- 2 Which conditional describes an unlikely or theoretical situation?
- 3 What tenses are used in each conditional?
- 4 Which tense is used after the word in?

3 How does your language express these ideas?

B Look at the pictures and answer the questions in your notebook. Use the first conditional.

What will happen if ... ?







Analysis

1 The following sentences describe hypothetical situations. Complete the sentences with the verbs in brackets. Use the second conditional. Then choose ONE answer. Compare your answers with a partner and discuss the reasons for your choices.

- 1 If a homeless person ... (ask) me for money, I ... (give) it to him / I ... (buy) him some food.
- 2 If I ... (see) a small child alone crying in the street, I ... (call) the police / I ... (try) to find his / her parents.
- 3 If I ... (notice) an injured dog in the street, I ... (take) it home / I ... (chase) it away.
- 4 If a friend ... (ask) me to lie to his / her parents, I ... (do) it / I ... (refuse).
- 5 If I ... (meet) an old person carrying heavy packages, I ... (offer) to help / I ... (ignore) him / her.
- 2 A STEP BEYOND Write your own ending to each sentence above.
- SPEAK UP Discuss the following. Say whether you agree or disagree and explain why.

If homeless people weren't so lazy, they wouldn't be homeless.



Note: p. 10 includes vocabulary analysis

The CAP / CAPE model

Context	Context established through a text (listening, reading or video), a 'situation' (in classroom or through audio- visual resources), or the involvement of learners.		
Analysis	Language features are noticed and analysed explicitly for meaning, form, pronunciation and usage/use (grammatical, functional, lexical, textual).		
Practice	Learners practise using the language. This may include controlled and freer practice of language analysed		

Evaluation When practice involves text construction, self-, peer and teacher evaluation of the text are possible.

See Anderson (2017b) Context, analysis and practice.

3 'lesson skeletons' using CAP

C-A-P Phase	1. Intermediate (B1) Making arrangements by email	2. Upper intermediate (B2) Telling an anecdote	3. Advanced (C1) Negotiating a business contract
Context	Learners read and evaluate two different emails; one good, the other not good.	Learners listen to a recording of people telling anecdotes from childhood, matching speakers to topics.	Learners watch video of business negotiation from reality TV show; answer comprehension questions.
Analysis	Learners study the structure of the better email, and notice useful expressions and phrases.	Learners analyse tenses used (e.g. past simple, past continuous, etc.) from the tapescript and why.	Learners watch the negotiation again. Make notes on techniques and language used.
Practice	Learners write emails to each other to plan a weekend holiday.	Learners make notes and then tell anecdotes to each other in groups.	Negotiation role-play on similar topic.

From Anderson, J. (2017c) The Trinity CertTESOL Companion





Advantages of CAP as a starting model

- 1. It's simple and clear (directive, but with flexibility).
- 2. It's consistent with structure of most textbooks / units of study.
- 3. It prioritises context (PPP and TBLT models don't).
- 4. It makes for 'rounded' lessons.
- 5. It's an integrated-skills model:

receptive -> analysis -> productive.

6. It's useful for pre-service observations/supervisions – can tick all the boxes in one lesson.



Moving from directive to responsive frameworks

Three key issues with CAP:

- Units are usually longer than one lesson.
- CAP doesn't provide clear opportunity for teachers to respond to learning: How do we deal with 'emergent language', encourage focus-on-form, differentiated instruction?
- 'Practice' is problematic. Do we want them simply to practice a structure (less meaningful) or to use language meaningfully and communicatively.



TATE framework (Anderson, 2020a, 2020b)

Phase	
Text ^a	 A hybrid ('task-supported/based') framework that: recognises longer units of work (including thematic units and project-based learning) provides a scaffold to help novice teachers move
Analysis ^b	from pre-task analysis to post-task analysis ('exploration')
	 is capable of facilitating both explicit and implicit learning (without compromising on either) and
Task ^c	flexible form focus within constraints of typical curricula and coursebooks
	 can be responsive to content focus, instructional constraints, learners' needs and teacher preferences
Exploration ^d	 can be introduced at late pre-service or early in- service stages

TATE framework (Anderson, 2020a, 2020b)

Phase	Description	Examples of potential implicit processes	Examples of potential explicit processes
Text ^a	Receptive skills practice through meaningful engagement with a written or aural text	Lexical priming Reinforcement	Inferring meaning from context
Analysis ^b	Learner- or teacher-led focus on target features (TF) of lexis or grammar related to the text and/or task	Noticing Translanguaging Proceduralisation activities) Raising awareness Focus on lexis Form-function focus Contrastive analysis
Task ^c	Meaningful, mainly productive skills practice that may include opportunities to use lexis or grammar from previous phases	Pushed output Negotiation of meaning Translanguaging Automatization of TF Uptake / Noticing the gap	Use of TF (optional) Incidental form focus Raising awareness
Exploration ^d	Evaluation, review and form-focus responsive to task success and challenge	Reinforcement	Emergent language focus Reflection Planning for future

Beyond TATE

- As teachers gain expertise the need for frameworks is often replaced by a more instinctual, flexible approach, and principled eclecticism.
- TBLT, project-based learning, text-based learning and ESP frameworks more likely to be of use.
- See: Ur's "mix and match" (2011, p. 518).



Summary

- Novice teachers often need the support of lesson planning frameworks in pre-service education
- Two dilemmas educators face in scaffolding learning for novice teachers are: a) not confusing them with too many frameworks; b) challenges of responsive form focus

Thus, I argue for a gradually scaffolded approach:

- Start with simple framework that allows them to plan for language analysis (CAP more appropriate than PPP)
- Introduce flexible framework (e.g. TATE) that allows them to shift gradually to an increased emphasis on responsive language analysis/form focus
- As they gain competence, eclecticism likely to take over

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