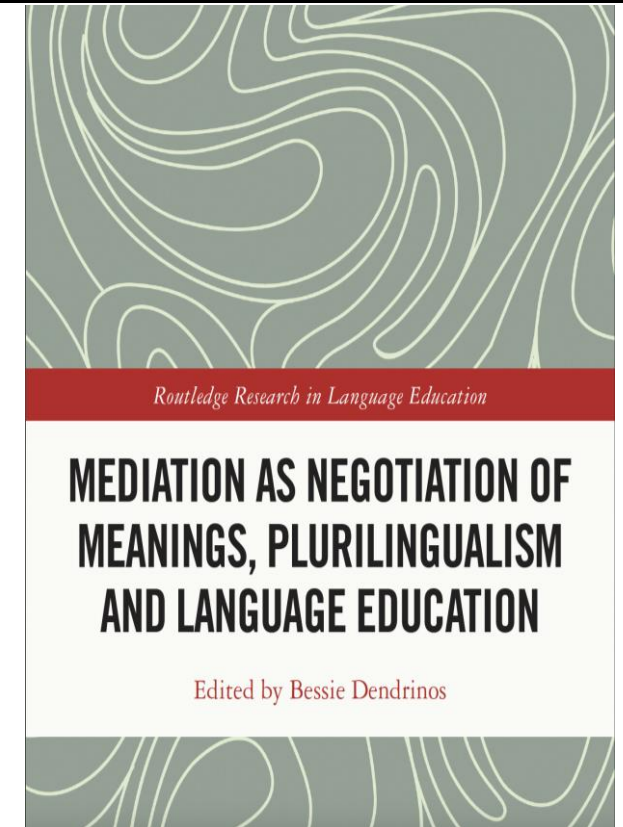


MEDIATION AS NEGOTIATION OF MEANINGS FOR PLURILINGUALISM

Bessie Dendrinou, Johann Fischer & Kia Karavas



API Education Forum Event Series

First session: Book launch

5 September 2024

CHAPTER 4: “DEVELOPING MEDIATION SKILLS AT UNIVERSITY LANGUAGE CENTRES”

“Developing Mediation Skills at University Language Centres –
How meaningful tasks and scenarios make language learning
relevant to the learner”

OUTLINE

Context: Specificities of university language teaching

Mediation activities in university language teaching and learning

- Intra-linguistic mediation activities at lower levels (A1 to B1 / B2)
- Intra-linguistic mediation activities at CEFR levels C1 / C2
- Cross-linguistic mediation activities

Activities for assessing mediation

- Curriculum development, course design and constructive alignment
- Mediation in formative and summative assessment

Implementation and professional development activities in university language centres

Key aspects

CONTEXT: SPECIFICITIES OF UNIVERSITY LANGUAGE TEACHING

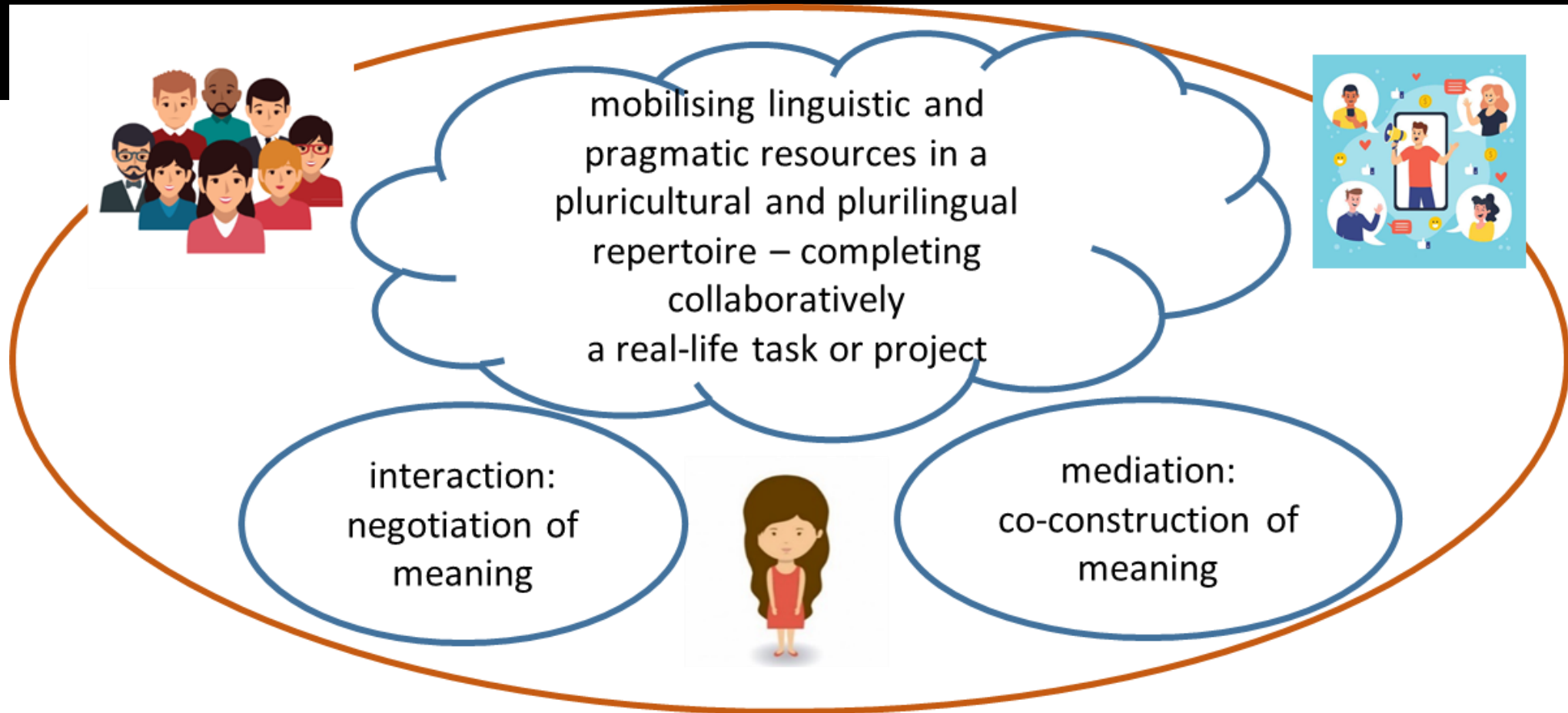
- different academic disciplines
- students' different cultural and linguistic backgrounds
- variety of target audiences

→ interdisciplinary group work

MEDIATION ACTIVITIES IN UNIVERSITY LANGUAGE TEACHING AND LEARNING

- real-life situations
- relevant and meaningful tasks and scenarios
- action-oriented / task-based approach, e.g.
 - * *project work*
 - * *case studies*
 - * *Virtual exchange / COIL*
 - * *global simulations*
 - * *service learning activities*
- group work:
 - * *diverse background*
 - * *co-construction of meaning*
 - * *variety of resources*
 - * *addressing specific target audience*

THE LEARNER AS A SOCIAL AGENT



see: www.ecml.at/companionvolumetoolbox

MEDIATION ACTIVITIES IN UNIVERSITY LANGUAGE TEACHING AND LEARNING

- **Intra-linguistic mediation activities at lower levels (A1 to B1 / B2)**
- **Intra-linguistic mediation activities at CEFR levels C1 / C2**
- **Cross-linguistic mediation activities**

MEDIATION ACTIVITIES IN UNIVERSITY LANGUAGE TEACHING AND LEARNING

Intra-linguistic mediation activities at lower levels (A1 to B1 / B2)

- ❖ global simulations
- ❖ project work in virtual exchange contexts
- mediating texts: “relaying specific information”, “explaining data” and “processing text”
- mediating concepts: “facilitating collaborative interaction with peers”, “collaborating to construct meaning”, “managing interaction” and “encouraging conceptual talk”

MEDIATION ACTIVITIES IN UNIVERSITY LANGUAGE TEACHING AND LEARNING

Intra-linguistic mediation activities at CEFR levels C1 / C2

- ✓ LGAP (“Languages for General Academic Purposes”) and LSAP (“Languages for Special Academic Purposes”)
 - ❖ global simulations
 - ❖ project work in virtual exchange contexts
- e.g.:
- simulating an international conference (e.g. on sustainability)
 - working on a case study or project (e.g. handling the waste problem of the City of Bologna)

MEDIATION ACTIVITIES IN UNIVERSITY LANGUAGE TEACHING AND LEARNING

Intra-linguistic mediation activities at CEFR levels C1 / C2

- mediating texts: “relaying specific information”, “explaining data” and “processing text”
- mediating concepts: “facilitating collaborative interaction with peers”, “collaborating to construct meaning”, “managing interaction” and “encouraging conceptual talk”
- mediation strategies: “strategies to explain new concepts”, “strategies to simplify texts”, “strategies to explain new concepts”

MEDIATION ACTIVITIES IN UNIVERSITY LANGUAGE TEACHING AND LEARNING

Cross-linguistic mediation activities

❖ project work

e.g.: analysing and comparing situation of refugees and their integration into society (e.g. movement from South-America to Sweden)

➤ mediating texts

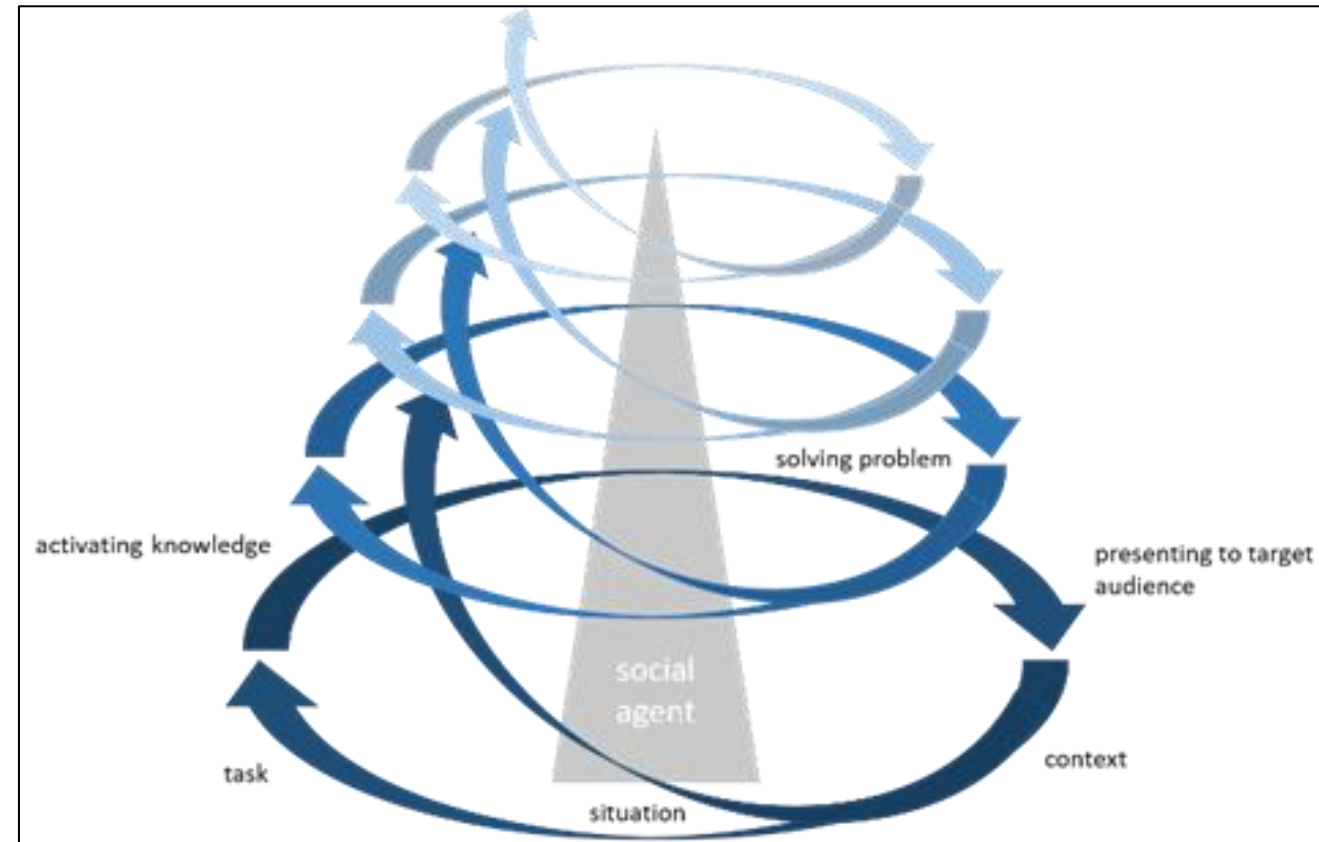
➤ mediating concepts

➤ mediation strategies

➤ plurilingual comprehension

ASSESSMENT

- Curriculum development, course design and constructive alignment
- Mediation in formative and summative assessment



IMPLEMENTATION

- ✓ **at institutional level:**
 - ZESS
- ✓ **at national level:**
 - UNlcert® and AKS
 - Institute of Foreign Languages at Vilnius University (2019 to 2022+)
- ✓ **at European level:**
 - NULTE
 - ECML:
VITbox Project – “CEFR Companion Volume implementation toolbox”

TO SUMMARISE

a good teaching / learning / assessment scenario:

* relevant

* meaningful

* stimulating

* authentic

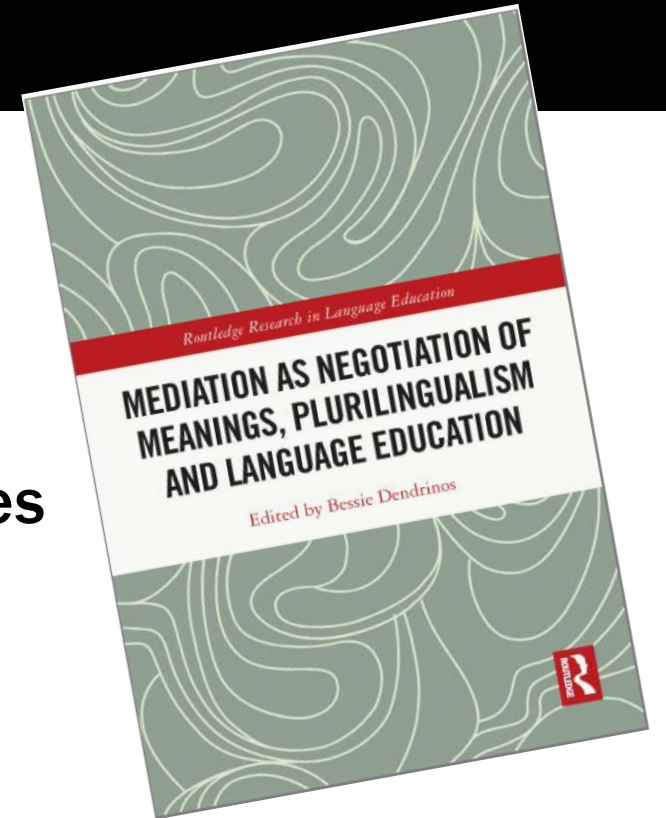
* purposeful

* challenging

DENDRINOS (2024): MEDIATION AS NEGOTIATION OF MEANINGS, PLURILINGUALISM AND LANGUAGE EDUCATION

Bessie's book:

- focus on mediation
 - focus on plurilingual and pluricultural approaches
 - addressing all levels of education
 - theory and practice
- stimulating discussion and initiating new ideas and developments



VIELEN DANK FÜR IHRE AUFMERKSAMKEIT!

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