

2020 BILC Professional Seminar

# Language Training in Times of Crises:

Challenges and Opportunities

19-23 October 2020

Presentations Day 1

Moderator: LCDR Marta Gabriel



Bureau for International Language Co-ordination  
[www.natobilc.org](http://www.natobilc.org)



# 2020 BILC Professional Seminar

## *Online Language Teaching and 5 Laws of Learning*

Dr. Ray Clifford

Senior BILC Advisor

Survey on recent experience on online language courses to understand the impact that the abrupt change from traditional classroom learning/teaching to online learning/teaching had on teachers, students and overall language learning. The survey helped to conclude that online teaching is an order of magnitude more complex than classroom instruction. Distance learning adds another complexity factor. Language learning online can be viewed as complexity<sup>3</sup>.



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## *Successful language learning in the Portuguese Navy during the COVID-19 lockdown period*

Lt Daniel Neto

Head of the English Language Office, Portuguese Navy

This presentation aims at examining the challenges and opportunities arising from the use of distance learning tools in English language teaching at the School of Naval Technologies, Portuguese Navy, during the recent COVID-19 lockdown period, namely in terms of the strategies used to keep students engaged in their learning process.



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## *Training during COVID-19 Pandemic: lessons learned in the Portuguese Army*

Dr Ana Sernadas

Director of the Army Language Centre, Portuguese Army

An overview of how the Portuguese Army Language Centre coped with the challenge of adapting teaching techniques from classroom environment to virtual classrooms, the lessons learned, and possible courses of action.



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### *Teaching Turkish to foreign military personnel using distance education technologies, and online Turkish courses,*

LTC Okan Sakaryalı and LTC Bahadır Parlak

Turkish Army Language School

Covid-19 pandemic has forced almost every educational institution to find new modes of instruction. One and maybe the most widespread mode was distance education. Foreseeing what was coming and for the lack of a better, safer and healthier option, Turkish Army Language School used distance education technologies to continue language teaching activities. Meanwhile a number of language programs were developed including Online Turkish Courses. As experience has shown although online courses bear challenges, they sure also bear a great potential.



# 2020 BILC Professional Seminar

First round

Dr Ray Clifford

1. You mentioned 10 different questions, when considering language learning online, and an overwhelming amount of combinations, but none of them refer to teacher's motivation. Would you like to tell us if and how you have worked on teacher's motivation?

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First round

Lt Daniel Neto

1. You talked about the need to empower students. But how about your team?  
How did you manage to motivate them?

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First round

Dr Ana Sernadas

1. You mentioned that decreased peer pressure was a beneficial part of online classes - isn't it the opposite, i.e. peer pressure as a powerful motivator in F2F classes?



# 2020 BILC Professional Seminar

First round

LTC Okan Sakaryalı and LTC Bahadır Parlak

1. You described the initiative of “classroom on wheels” and field trips. Even if we all agree that there is no equivalent of this in the world of distance learning, what is the on-line alternative you found for that?
2. You mentioned that you have tested different platforms - we would like to know which you found the most useful and why.

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Second round

Dr Ray Clifford

2. You talked about the Language Law of Learning and the need to "create and maintain students' engagement". Can you, please, give us some hints on how to create that engagement?

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Second round

Lt Daniel Neto

2. You have mentioned in your conclusions that one of the immediate outcomes was that this situation led to a renewed perception of the importance of investment in distance learning technologies. Is there any plan in progress to address the need of more investment on this area?

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Second round

Dr Ana Sernadas

2. Regarding teacher preparation, you mentioned that the teachers had to learn as they went along, but now that the initial confusion has settled down, is there some form of training being given to new teachers, or guidelines, best practices, dos and dont's?

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Second round

LTC Okan Sakaryalı and LTC Bahadır Parlak

3. When you mentioned testing being the weakest link in the chain, did you mean only testing connected to the coursebooks, mid-term, end of course tests, or all kinds of computer-based tests?
4. Would you tell us which training resources/textbooks have you found most useful or effective in your instruction? Also, what do you use to teach military content, as commercial books are lacking in that aspect?