Review of: "Integrating Community Service in Language Education: Fostering Social Change via Inclusive and Transformative Learning Experiences"

Rebeca Mejía-Arauz[1]

1 Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente

REVIEW OF THE ARTICLE:

Integrating Community Service in Language Education: Fostering Social Change via Inclusive and Transformative Learning Experiences. By Thobias Sarbunan

The article presents a review of theories and literature on the topic of language teaching strategies that could be integrated in teaching practices to promote social change through participating in community service.

The abstract promises a discussion of "how language classes may benefit from including community service to equip students better to utilize language for social change", however I did not find a discussion. Instead, there is a list of things to do in language classes. Later in the article, it seems that the author refers to second language teaching or learning which appeared somehow abruptly, and since there is a lot of reference to cultural learning, there is not an explanation regarding how teachers may help students understand and live in a cultural context in which the language is not their first language or mother tongue.

The article is structured following a research protocol, more commonly used for empirical research which in my view is not necessary for a literature review article. There is a research question that is answered through enlisting a series of ideas, strategies, activities with no discussion of how they could be applied.

The interpretation of Social Constructivism is presented in a narrow way, perhaps the author should clarify that s/he is referring to a particular application of social constructivism to learning. But by itself Social Constructivism as a paradigm is broader than the way it is presented.

The writing style is not fluid. In some paragraphs it seems like a list of themes instead of explicitly connected ideas. Just to give one example, the author refers to digital identities with no explanation regarding what it refers to, or how digital identities are connected to the main point of the article.

The idea and intention of the article is very good, but it needs to clarify, explain, expand, discuss more thoroughly the several contributions this article attempts to provide.