Course Reflection LLED 526

**Bachman, L. F., & Palmer, A. S. (2010). *Oxford Applied Linguistics: Language Assessment***

***in Practice* (1 ed.). England: Oxford University Press.**

**Brown, J. D. (2005). *Testing in language programs: a comprehensive guide to English***

***language assessment*. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall Regents.**

**Key Words:**

Assessment Use Argument, evaluation, consequences, equitable, validity, reliability statistical analysis, norm-referenced vs criterion reference testing

**Reflection:**

LLED 526 Second Language Assessment: Conceptual and Empirical Approaches is an intense course filled with difficult concepts. The course requires focussed reading of detailed material as students delve into the domain of assessment. Often we use assessments without thinking about the profound effects that may occur. This course taught me how to complete an Assessment Use Argument, a document that investigates all aspects of an assessment: the effects of the assessment on each of the stakeholders involved. In this course we learned to think carefully about all of the stakeholders in education. Clearly students are affected, but also affected are the parents, teachers, administrators and even the school district can be affected by the use of a standardized test or even final exam and the decisions that are made as a result.

This course dissected assessment at a level that I will not use in my day to day teaching. The course did, however, remind me of the importance of validity and reliability in tests and tests items. I have been much more aware of my test items since this course, and I feel that I gained valuable information that has improved my assessment practices.

The most valuable outcomes of their course for me came through the Powerpoint presentation assignment. My partner and I investigated the use of portfolios for assessment in the British Columbia French immersion curriculum. I had no previous experience with portfolios, so this was a valuable learning experience for me, and I have begun to use portfolios in my current classrooms. My colleagues presented other topics of interest. One in particular was the DELF program presented by Sonje Bosman. Her presentation inspired me to investigate this on my own, and I continue to explore and incorporate elements into my classroom.

References

Bachman, L. F., & Palmer, A. S. (2010). *Oxford Applied Linguistics: Language Assessment in Practice* (1 ed.). England: Oxford University Press.

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