

Seppo Tella

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The concept of English

- 4 different categories of comprehending the concept of English were found:
 - Ideologist: the concept was comprehended as any school subject
 - Structuralist: as a descriptive structured system
 - Semi-holist: as that which appears when exposed to it
 - Naturalist: as the informational content conveyed by means of the language as a medium

Bentley, C. (2002). The Roots of Variation of English-Teaching: A Phenomenographic Study founded on an Alternative Basic Assumption. Göteborg: Acta Universitatis Gothoburgensis

The concept of English-teaching

- Extended Ideologist: training pupils to learn a subject
- Extended Structuralist: presenting and practising the descriptive structured system
- Extended Semi-holist: arranging situations in which exposure to English could take place
- Extended Naturalist: imitating authentic communicative situations in which language development could occur

4 Basic (Student) Teacher Types

- Dolphin: easily adapts to the dynamics of the present school situations. Her/ his way of acting is characterised by reflective thinking, natural flexibility, creativity and adaptability
- Parrot: follows rules and norms of the environment, adapts to the demands of the school situation by imitating already existing behavioural patterns, and thus does not take any initiatives on her/his side
- Duckling: exposes low degree of teaching ability in the beginning but with adequate support and guidance, s/he develops her/his self-confidence and turns into a 'beautiful swan', a very capable teacher
- Mule: a rigid personality
 - Difficulties to adapt her/himself to the teaching situations.
 - In spite of massive support and efforts, the 'mule' does not succeed in developing professionally but finds her/his situation stressful, since s/he involves her/himself in conflicts with the pupils.
 - This situation can turn out to be so grave that considering leaving the school system could be the only alternative.

Greiner-Makin, S. 1996. Why is the "Duckling" preferable to the "Parrot" as a Teacher? Four Beginning Teacher Types. European J. of Teacher Education 19 (1), 13–18. (Cited in Bentley 2002, 79)