Content and language integrated learning (CLIL)

Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) has become the umbrella term describing both learning another (content) subject such as physics or geography through the medium of a foreign language and learning a foreign language by studying a content-based subject. The generic term CLIL describe any learning activity where language is used as a tool to develop new learning from a subject area or theme. Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) is an educational approach that intertwines the teaching of a subject with the learning of a new language. Originating in Europe, CLIL has gained popularity globally as a means to enhance both language proficiency and subject knowledge simultaneously.

Why is CLIL important?

With the expansion of the European Union, diversity of language and the need for communication are seen as central issues.

- Even with English as the main language, other languages are unlikely to disappear. Some countries have strong views regarding the use of other languages within their borders.
- With increased contact between countries, there will be an increase in the need for communicative skills in a second or third language.

CLIL in the classroom

CLIL assumes that subject teachers are able to exploit opportunities for language learning. The best and most common opportunities arise through reading texts. CLIL draws on the lexical approach, encouraging learners to notice language while reading. Here is a paragraph from a text on fashion. In the classroom, the use of Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) involves integrating language learning with the teaching of subject content. Here are practical ways to implement CLIL:

1.**Select Relevant Topics:** Choose subject topics that are interesting, relevant, and align with curriculum goals. Ensure that the content is challenging but accessible to students based on their language proficiency.

2.Integrated Lesson Planning: Plan lessons that seamlessly integrate language and content objectives. Design activities that promote language acquisition while exploring the subject matter.

3.Language Support: Provide language support as needed, such as vocabulary lists, sentence structures, or language frames. Scaffold language learning by gradually increasing complexity as students progress.

Conclusion: Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) enhances language acquisition by integrating language instruction with subject content. This approach promotes both language and subject mastery, fostering a deeper understanding. CLIL benefits students by providing a holistic learning experience, preparing them for a globalized world with effective communication skills across various disciplines.