

Counterbalancing form-focused and content-based instruction in immersion pedagogy

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Immersion Education: Pathways to Bilingualism and Beyond

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Counterbalanced instruction

- Instruction that counterbalances content-based instruction and form-focused instruction across three key areas of immersion pedagogy:
 - Instructional input
 - Student output
 - Classroom interaction

Part 1: Instructional input

- Teachers need to counterbalance the types of input students are exposed to:
 - content-based input conveys subject matter made comprehensible by teachers to ensure comprehension
 - form-focused input is enhanced so that students notice linguistic information in content-based input

Part 2: Student output

- Teachers need to counterbalance the types of output activities students engage in:
 - students produce content-based output as they learn subject matter through academic tasks
 - students produce form-focused output as they practice using target forms that are otherwise avoided or misused

Part 3: Classroom interaction

- Teachers need to counterbalance the types of interaction students engage in:
 - content-based interaction includes scaffolded exchanges that ensure students' participation and appropriation of the targeted content
 - form-focused interaction includes feedback that pushes students towards more accuracy and beyond their use of recurring interlanguage forms

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