

SEKTION 2 - HETEROGENITÄT: KONTEXTE & ZIELGRUPPEN

► Pauli Kudel (Aalto-Universität, Helsinki)



Diversification: meeting the needs of various students

Students with different backgrounds, wishes and expectations are a challenge in all forms of language tuition. New, learning-centered cultures also challenge teachers to rethink their teaching methods. This presentation will show how the Aalto University Language Centre has tackled this challenge. The Aalto Online Learning (A!OLE) project is designed to explore novel technical solutions and pedagogical models for online and blended learning.

This presentation will discuss how two German courses at the Aalto Language Centre have been designed to take not only students' needs but also institutional requirements into consideration. Through diversification, we have been able to develop a multitude of new learning and teaching methods. We have found the flipped learning approach to be a particularly effective form of diversification in terms of meeting the needs of various students. Furthermore, we believe that diversification can lead to greater motivation and depth in the student's learning experience. A multimodal approach provides a better framework for catering to each learner's individual viewpoint and personal approaches to tackling the topic at hand.

We have designed a German beginners' course (A1) that caters to both our Finnish-speaking students and foreign students who have no Finnish skills: this new material fills a clear gap, as the previous teaching material was in Finnish, and therefore unsuitable for international students. The students at Aalto University specialize in one of the following three majors: engineering, business and art & architecture. The cultural studies course (Landeskunde, B2-C1) is designed for all three student categories. Both courses provide a model for a flipped-classroom and omni-channel teaching strategy. The courses meet the needs of various students.

Keywords: diversification, flipped classroom, various students, different target groups, omni-channel teaching strategy