

## **Intercultural pedagogies in Chinese as a foreign language (CFL)**

Author: Juliet Kennedy

Literature review by Karen Hu, Facilitator, Future Learning Solutions – Centre for Languages

An intercultural approach in language education is now widely required in school curricula. However, a major obstacle to its implementation in classrooms is teachers' understanding of how to practise *intercultural communicative language teaching* (iCLT). Data shows students' understanding of Chinese culture in the context of learning is predominantly understood as static knowledge (factual knowledge) such as Chinese festivals, food, tradition, and crafts. Here, Kennedy has critically examined the intercultural pedagogy practices currently used in NZ Chinese language classrooms.

Kennedy explores and identifies the essence of the importance of intercultural integration in the language classroom, and provides the research-based evidence to support the significant impact integration has on students' intercultural competency development in foreign language learning. Kennedy also points out that many existing intercultural activities such as comparison as a stand-alone activity, do not lead to intercultural competence without the teacher also scaffolding a deeper reflection process. She also provides a practical lesson example showing how an intercultural approach can be applied in the language classroom.

Kennedy's article aims to enhance awareness of the importance of explicit intercultural pedagogy in language teaching for both foreign language learners and native language speakers. Although the author is focused on Mandarin Chinese teaching and learning, the iCLT principles are applied to all foreign language teaching and learning.

Author: Juliet Kenney with more than 20 years of language teaching experience. Juliet is a talented linguist who can speak Mandarin Chinese, French, German, and many other Pacific Island languages. Kennedy is a teacher-researcher with an interest in social justice in education, community and heritage language education, and intercultural and plurilingual pedagogies. She is currently the Head of Languages at Porirua College Wellington. Juliet is also the final year Ph.D. candidate from Victoria University of Wellington.

To view the abstract of the article and to purchase it: [Click here](#)