

# ESU News July 2017

## Update from the International Programmes

Melanie Aplin (Head of International Programmes and Cultural Exchange) and Leela Koenig (Head of Oracy) attended a June conference in Gdansk, Poland, on the educational role of language. This brought together academics from all over the world to focus on the linguistic, cultural and sociological role of language. We also had the chance to present the oracy work of the ESU, which was received with much interest.

The conference message reinforced the link between oracy skills, communication, cultural exchange, and international dialogue and understanding, which continues to underpin the ESU's overall mission, at home and abroad. Emerging themes included: the rise of young people who have no native language; language as an intermediary between the individual and the world; how the context in which students and teachers operate influences the styles and techniques used in classrooms; and language as the perfect tool to teach identity and culture.

These are all themes with which, as international ESUs working within your own parameters and barriers, you may already be familiar, and we look forward to working with you to tackle some of these areas.

## Resource of the Month

### A useful digital resource idea from Zoe, Cultural Exchange Officer

In this month's review of the ESU's English Language Awards' winning entries, we're turning our attention to the digital category. The runner-up for this category was a resource produced by the BBC's Learning English team.

Learning Circles is a resource designed to be used in communities where residents may not speak a great deal of English, despite living in the UK. It targets really practical, everyday language and situations, such as chatting to parents at the schoolgate, or using public transport.

The resource is designed to be used not just by teachers, but also by independent learners, such as community groups. Its components can be downloaded and printed, so are practical in situations where the internet is not available. Our judges commented that it was a 'very innovative community cascade training model aimed at involving non-specialists'.

If you know of a great teaching resource that gets students of English speaking, let us know! Email [education@esu.org](mailto:education@esu.org) for more information.