



Humanising Pedagogy: The New Normal in Australia's French Language Classrooms

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KmmvuYFltOE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11CGXolsFTI>

30 Year Ago...

- Add o



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- In response to these conversations, I became more proactive in my responses, when someone asked me:
 - “Oh, you have an accent, where are you from?”
 - I would respond:....

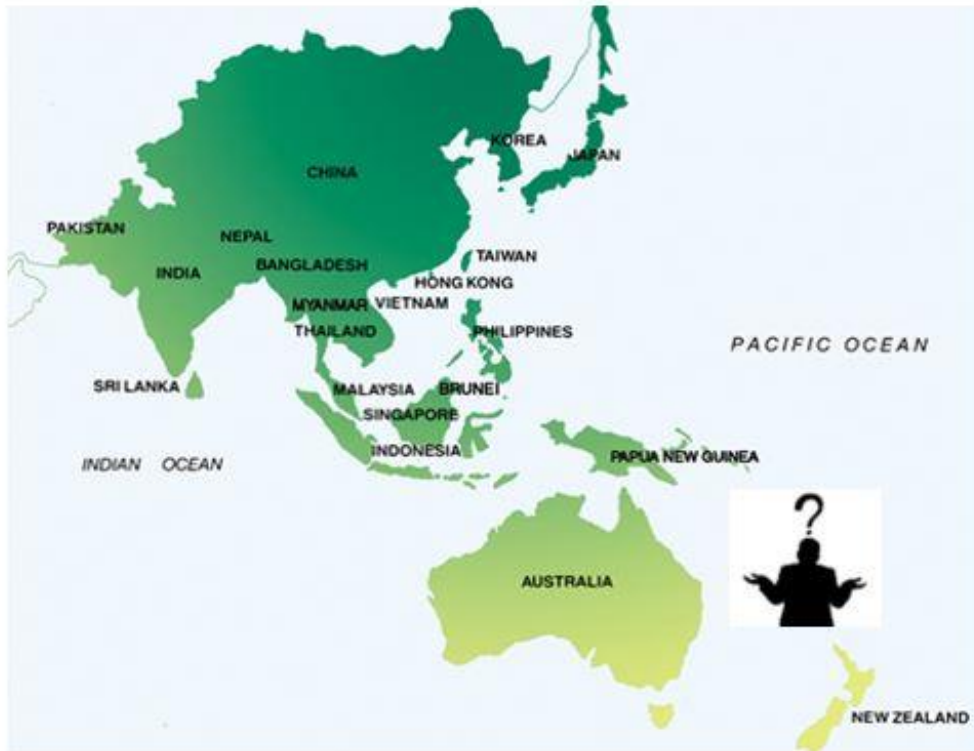
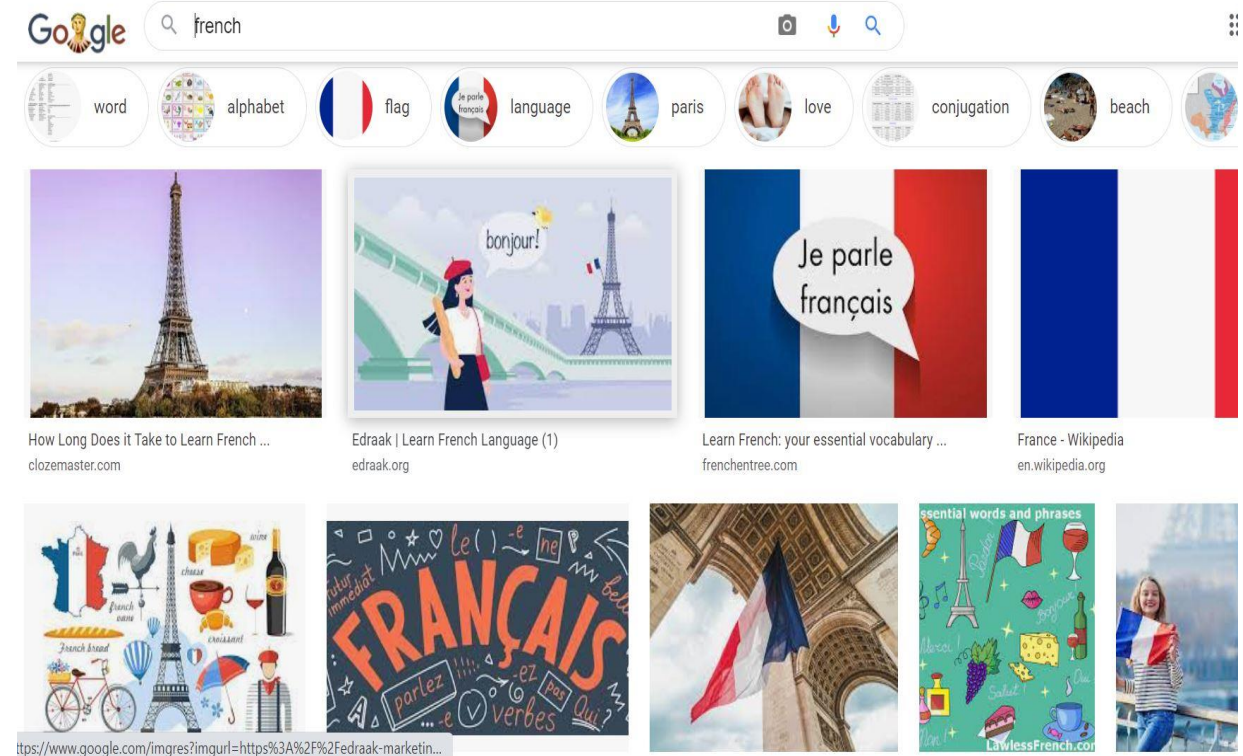


Image: Boulard (2018) PhD thesis.

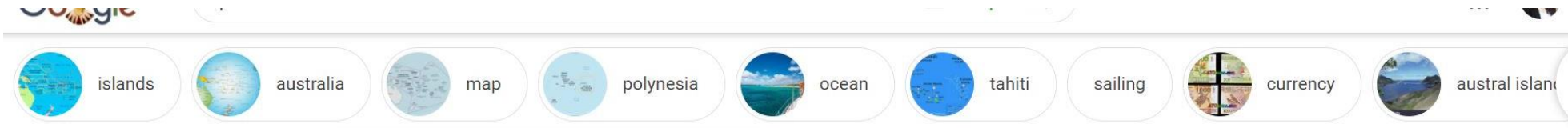
“I am from New Caledonia. It is a small French-speaking island between here and New Zealand, only two hours flight from Brisbane. We speak French there... I know it is strange... but please don't worry, nobody knows where it is.”

Cultural Hegemony

- One could have assumed that these conversations with strangers would have been enough to remind me that as a teacher, I would have the opportunity to change, the opportunity to challenge the stereotypical imagery of the French language. Because after all it can be argued that French is a language of the Pacific. Yet, somehow despite my background, growing up in the Pacific, cultural hegemony was stronger and without noticing it, this invisible force made me teach a curriculum with a Eurocentric focus.



What about you? In reflecting about your own practice...would you say that your curriculum also has a Eurocentric focus? If so, you are probably not alone.



French Polynesia | Islands, History ...
britannica.com



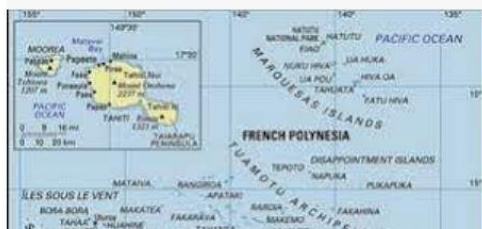
French colonialism in the Blue Pacific
policyforum.net



Map of the French military presence in ...
reddit.com



French classes in Australia need to ...
theconversation.com





I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked with inspiring language teachers at All Hallows and of course Lester Ford who was one my professor at UQ.



In 2008, I moved to Townsville and became a French language teacher. The rest is history...



Asia Literacy – imperatives for the Australian Classroom

Pre-service teachers
Melbourne University



National Statement on Asia Literacy in Australian Schools 2011-2012

"Global integration and international mobility have increased rapidly in the past decade. As a consequence, new and exciting opportunities for Australians are emerging... India, China and other Asian nations are growing and their influence on the world is increasing. Australians need to become 'Asia literate', engaging and building strong relationships with Asia."

The beginning of my teaching career coincides with the 'Asian Century' discourse that positioned Asia as the most important regional neighbour to Australia.

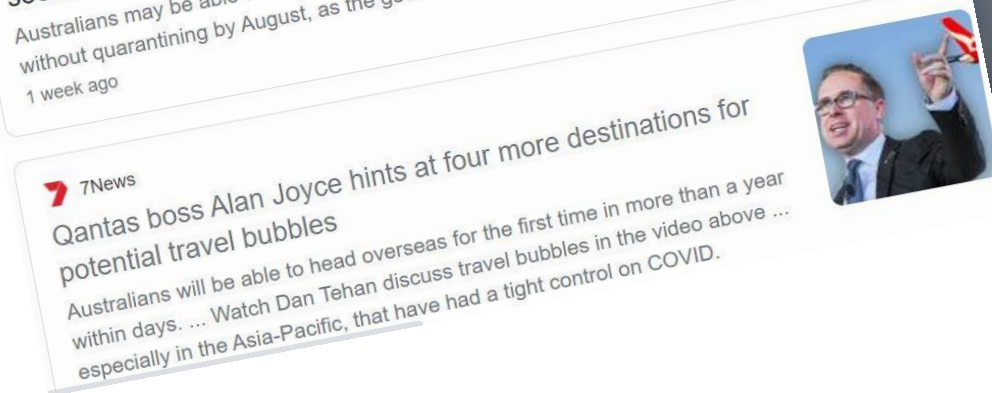
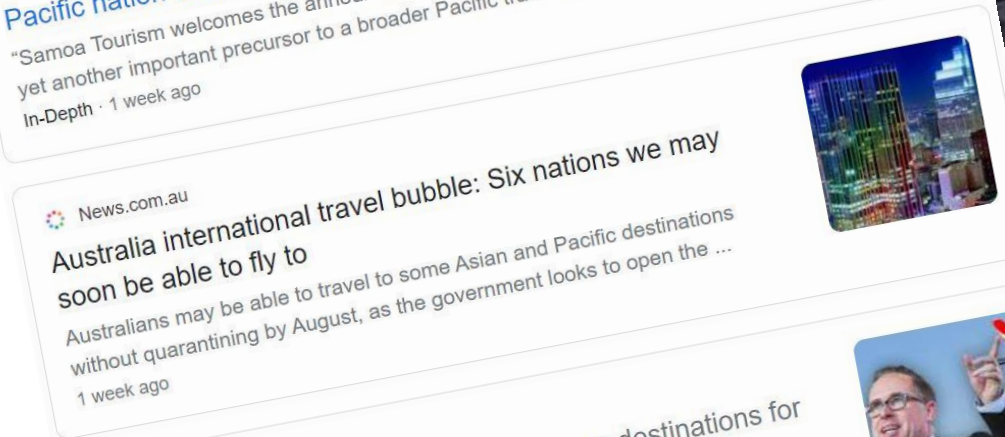
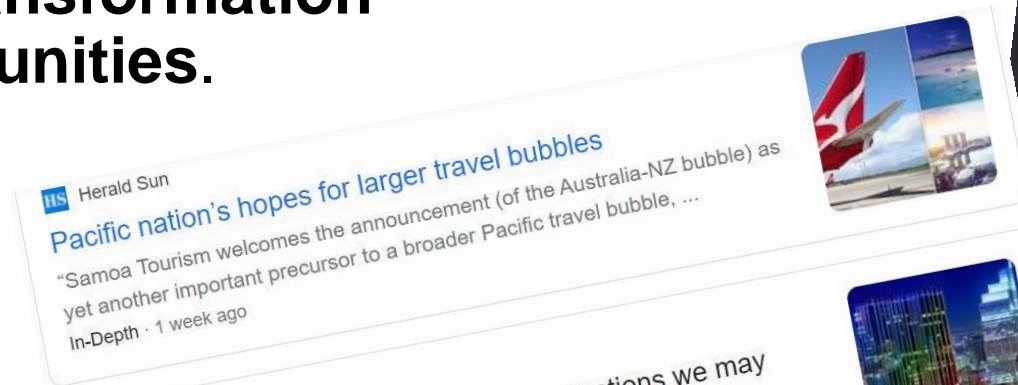
Whilst drawing on the languages and cultures of neighbouring Asian countries is politically, economically and socially valuable, limiting students' worldview to Asia denies young Australians of the diverse knowledge and perspectives abundantly accessible in our backyard



I aspire for a future in which all Pacific Islands or ESN of Australia receive better attention for the benefit of Australians and Pacific Islanders alike. The ESN as I call them are a proximal and tangible context for such attention. Their proximity provides the impetus for a shift in curriculum from a Euro- to Pasifika-orientation.



As COVID19 caused massive disruption in our society, it provides us all with **reflection and transformation opportunities.**

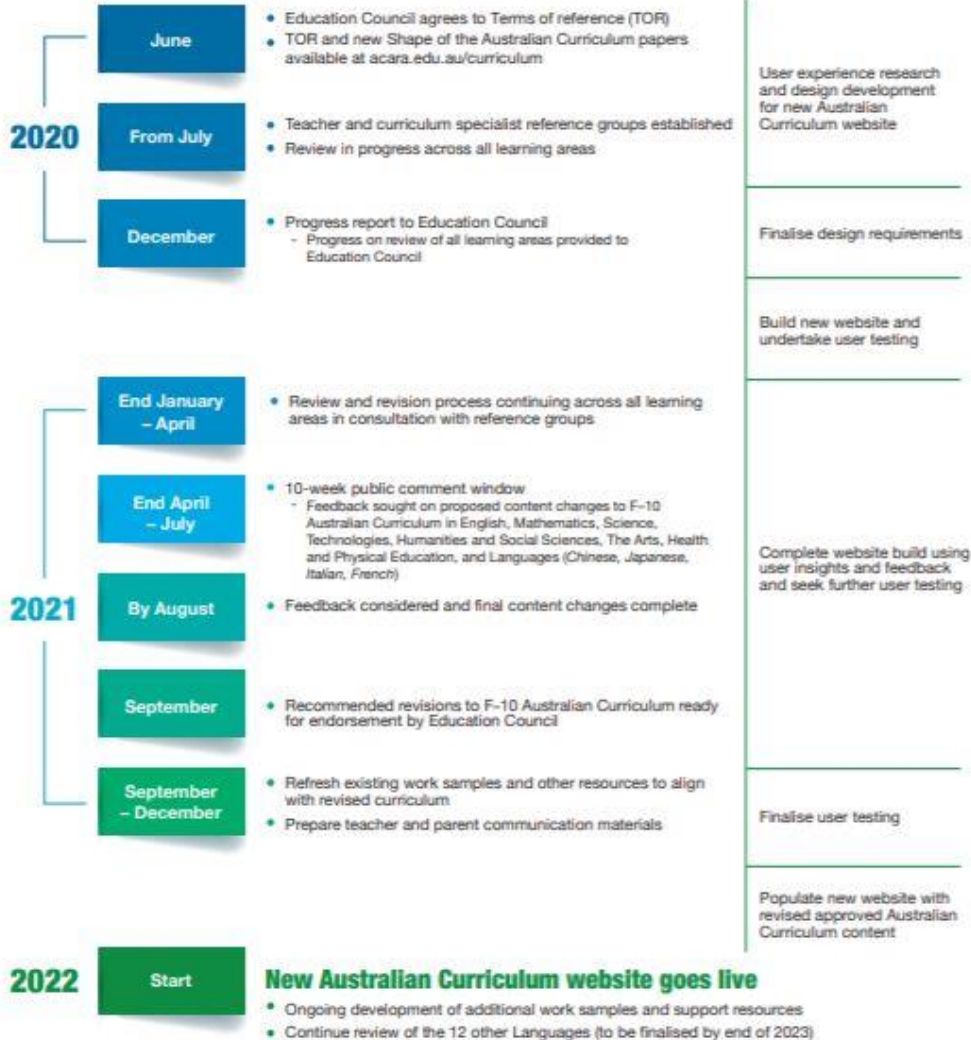


Timeline F-10 Australian Curriculum review

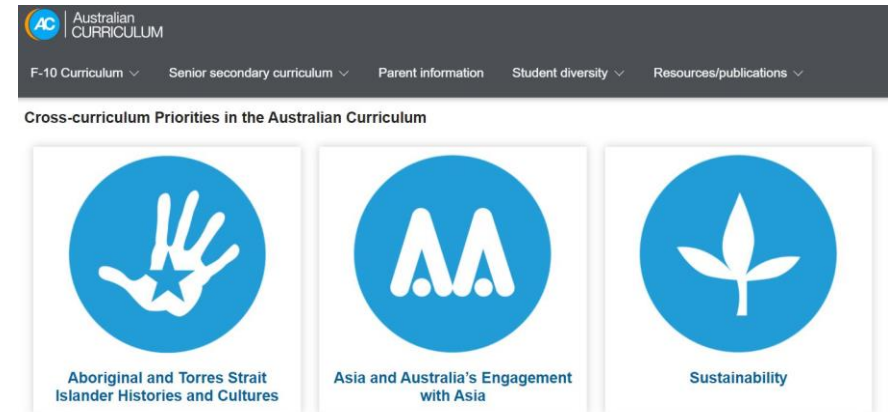


Content review

Website upgrade



Combine the current health crisis with the review of the Australian Curriculum, which was decided last year in June and it makes it timely for us colleagues, as experts in our field to review our practice, our purpose and empower our students by humanizing our pedagogy.



Things are happening in the Pacific...



Figure 1: Pacific population in Australia by ancestry

Ancestry	Total
Oceanian, nfd*	12,541
Maori	128,430
Melanesian and Papuan, nfd	643
New Caledonian	204
Ni-Vanuatu	705
Papua New Guinean	15,460
Solomon Islander	1,405
Melanesian and Papuan, nec#	530
Micronesian, nfd	99
I-Kiribati	677
Nauruan	409
Micronesian, nec	138
Polynesian, nfd	2164
Cook Islander	16,193
Fijian	23,770
Niuean	3143
Samoaan	55,843
Tongan	25,096
Hawaiian	333
Tahitian	722
Tokelauan	1,655
Tuvaluan	430
Polynesian, nec	443
Total	279,248

*nfd: Not Further Defined #nec: Not Elsewhere Classified

Ravulo, J. (2015). Pacific Communities in Australia. Western Sydney University

Figure 2: Pacific people across Australian states & territories

State/Territory	Pacific Population	% of State/Territory Population
New South Wales	92,028	1.3%
Victoria	43,055	0.8%
Queensland	102,320	2.4%
South Australia	5,246	0.3%
Western Australia	28,954	1.3%
Tasmania	1,821	0.4%
Northern Territory	2,827	1.3%
Australian Capital Territory	2,977	0.8%
TOTAL	279,228	1.3%*

* of Australia's total population of 21,507,719

Pacific Communities in Australia (Ravulo, J. 2015)

Figure 3: Top 5 Pacific cohorts across Australian states & territories

	Maori		Samoan		Tongan		Fijian		Cook Islanders	
NSW	32,193	25.1%	21,680	38.8%	14,376	57.3%	12,533	52.7%	5,100	31.5%
VIC	18,367	14.3%	10,670	19.1%	3,921	15.6%	3,605	15.2%	3,835	23.7%
QLD	48,283	37.6%	20,542	36.8%	5,065	20.2%	5,467	23.0%	5,652	34.9%
SA	3,239	2.5%	335	0.6%	233	0.9%	554	2.3%	198	1.2%
WA	23,063	18.0%	1,729	3.1%	663	2.6%	849	3.6%	1,198	7.4%
TAS	1,075	0.8%	156	0.3%	118	0.5%	169	0.7%	50	0.3%
NT	1,289	1.0%	169	0.3%	163	0.6%	277	1.2%	89	0.5%
ACT	917	0.7%	562	1.0%	559	2.2%	316	1.3%	71	0.4%
TOTAL	128,426	100%	55,843	100%	25,098	100%	23,770	100%	16,193	100%

Based on the statistics of Pacific people living in capital cities along the east coast of Australia, 72,223 live in Sydney, 62,540 live in Greater Brisbane, and 34,568 live in Melbourne.

In 2018, Australian Prime Minister Mr Scott Morrison declared that together
“We are family”.

Humanising pedagogy

- Traditionally, “teachers who use a humanising pedagogy engage in classroom practices that respect cultural differences and reflect genuine care for students. As such, they utilize and build on students' existing knowledge and culture. They critically question their deficit views of subordinated students and recognize students as “knowers” and active participants in their individual learning. Furthermore, a humanising pedagogy allow opportunities to challenge society's asymmetrical power relations: for example: Anglos' power over people of color, and males over females, etc. Finally, teachers who practice the humanizing pedagogy take action to create pedagogical structures that help to balance this asymmetrical power relations in our society.” Source: Huerta, T. (2011) *Humanizing*



A New Concept of Humanising Pedagogy

- What about a pedagogy that deliberately seeks to humanise the unknown? A pedagogy that creates an understanding of others and builds empathy towards them? A pedagogy that can invert an established imbalance of power between a dominate regional power, and its lesser known neighbours.
- A pedagogy that puts people AND relationships at its core.



BA1001 The Human Condition Through a Tropical Lens
 Florence BOULARD

“WHAT COMES TO YOUR MIND WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THE TROPICS?”



Each of these stages are commonly associated with the transformative learning experienced by educators in their professional learning ((Mezirow 1995, p. 50).

1. A disorienting dilemma
2. Self-examination with feelings of guilt or shame
3. A critical assessment of assumptions
4. Recognition that one's discontent and process of transformation are shared and that others have negotiated a similar change
5. Exploration of options for new roles, relationships, and actions
6. Planning of a course of action
7. Acquisition of knowledge and skills for implementing one's plans
8. Provisionally trying out new roles
9. Building of competence and self-confidence in new roles and relationships
10. A reintegration into one's life on the basis of conditions dictated by one's new perspective.

Transformative Theory and Shock (Mezirow; Oberg)

Image: Boulard (2018) PhD thesis.

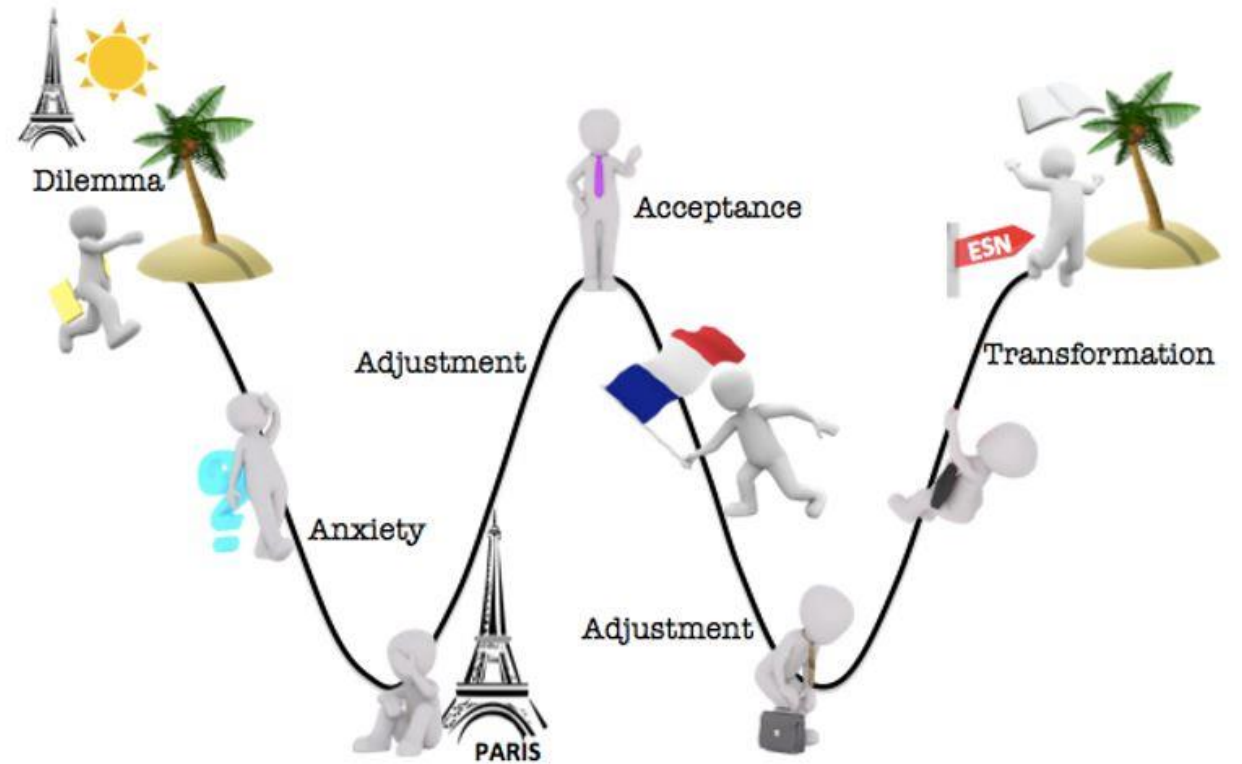
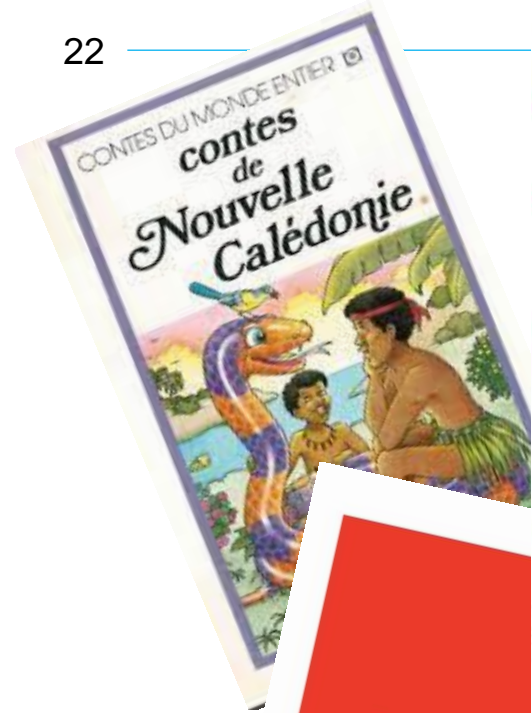


Figure 6.1: Stages of transformation when challenging the cultural hegemony of the French language curriculum

My Reconstruction Journey

- 2012: James Cook University “Make life in the Tropics brighter”
- 2013: Curriculum Transformation + start of overseas trip in the Pacific
- 2014: Young Language Ambassador Conference
- 2015: Academy of Modern Languages Junior face to face
- 2016: Young Explorers of the Tropics Program
- 2018: Virtual Reality
- 2019: P&O cruises Pacific French
- 2020: Covid19 (Australian Section Bac. International)
- 2021: Pressbook Pacific French Workbook & Oleti



2012: James Cook University "Make life in the Tropics brighter"

2013: Curriculum Transformation + start of overseas trip in the Pacific

2014: Young Language Ambassador Conference

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NlbDHgsjuw8>



- 2016: Young Explorers of the Tropics Program
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UtMiq4JtSk>
- New Caledonia
- Vanuatu
- Wallis & Futuna
- French Polynesia



2018 & 2019



THUNDER
MARQUEE DECK 7 & 8
Join us on a rollicking robbing in the 1860s with outlaw Captain Thunder aka the "gentleman bushranger" - and his feisty lover Mary
2PM THEMED TRIVIA: HARRY POTTER
ATRIUM DECK 5 MIDSHIP
2PM SPORTS: TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT
UNDER BIG SCREEN DECK 14
2PM EDGE: WALK THE PLANK*
EDGE DECK 12
2PM FREE HEALTH SEMINAR: HOW TO RELIEVE BODY PAIN AND IMPROVE YOUR POSTURE
THE ORIENT DECK 7
2PM MOVIE: THE GREATEST SHOWMAN (1.44) PG
BIG SCREEN DECK 14
Step right up... and into the spellbinding imagination of a man who set out to reveal that life itself can be the most thrilling show of all. Broadway dreamer P.T. Barnum rises from nothing to prove that anything you can envision is possible and that everyone, no matter how invisible, has a stupendous story worthy of a world-class spectacle.
2.30PM PAPER FLOWER MAKING: ROSE
THE ORIENT DECK 7
3PM FRENCH: "A LANGUAGE OF THE PACIFIC"
THE ORIENT DECK 7
With our French teacher, Florence Boulard
3PM WHISKY TASTING *
PROMENADE BAR DECK 7
3PM SPORTS: SHUFFLEBOARD COMPETITION
OPEN DECK 7 PORTSIDE
3PM SOLUTIONS TO ARTHRITIS AND BACK PAIN
OCEAN BAR DECK 7
3PM TAG WORKSHOP
JEWELLERY SHOP DECK 6
3.15PM GUEST LECTURE: "THE BIRTH OF A SECRET BOUNTY PRESENTATION WITH WAYNE GREIG"
MARQUEE DECK 7 & 8 FORWARD
The why, the Who and the How behind the voyage of Endeavour
Was this voyage really necessary?
4PM BALLROOM TUNES WITH DJ RESTY
MARQUEE DECK 7 & 8 FORWARD
BY RULES

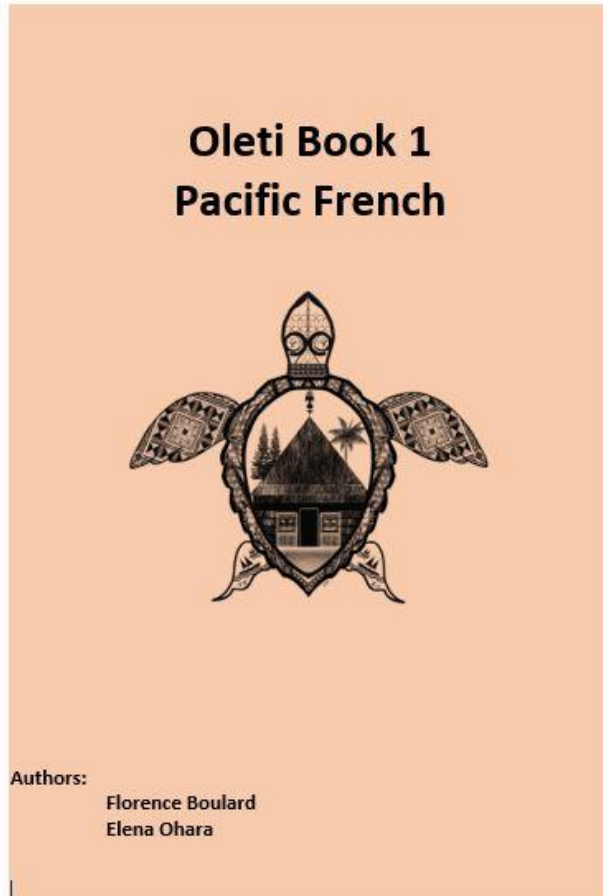
2020: Covid19

Baby Eveline

Australian/Bac



Pressbook Pacific French Workbook, Pacific Adventure Brochure & Oleti Textbook



- <https://jcu.pressbooks.pub/> (free)

- Oleti Textbook (Mrs Elena Ohara)

Reimagining Curriculum

- As Mezirow (2000) suggested, a true transformative experience is represented by an undisputed new walk of action. This means coming to the point where participants are not only just facing the change, but act the change themselves, becoming transformed individuals who will walk the talk.

Reflection



What is the fundamental role of your French classroom? What should the new normal be in this classroom? How can we empower future generations of French educators and French-language learners to embrace Pacific French as the new normal?



“People change organisations. The starting point is not system change, or change around us, but taking action ourselves. The challenge is to improve education in the only way it can – through the day-to-day actions of empowered individuals”. Michael Fullan 1988, p.46

It is impossible for students, for our young people to care about something they don't know exists. They won't see the humanity in our nearest neighbours until they develop knowledge about and empathy toward the people of our pacific family. So how will your pedagogy humanise what is to many people, reduced to just a big, blue patch of water.

Create Our New Normal “Pacific French”

When you think about “French” what first comes to your mind?



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