

Drama in (Higher) Education – can it be a good tool?

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Social competences

- No universal definition of social competence (*Arghode, 2013; Lang, 2010; Stump, Ratliff, Wu, & Hawley, 2009*)
- *S. Reitz (2012)* „the sum of knowledge and skills of a person that determines the quality of socially competent behavior”
- During the education process mostly communication and cooperation skills (*Gedviliene et al., 2014*)

Playback & DIE

- Thinking is a complex process requires communication, problem-solving and self-awareness. Drama In Education and role playing can be used to help students understand some of the complexities of the (school)subjects (*Blatner, 2009*)
- Playback is a storytelling, interactive theatre. Self-reflective form therefore can be used to recreate problematic narratives (*Fox, 2004; Park-Fuller, 2005*).

,Our stories are common'

- Project of Perspectiva Nova Association in 2014/15.
- Target group: people learning/working in the field of humanities
- Aim: work with prejudices (decrease them)



,Our stories are common'

- 14 semi-structured interviews at the end of the project
- ,I thought I was not prejudiced or I was that based on my experiences, so it was legit. Then I realized that I was very much prejudiced. And then the next round was that I realized I didn't have to hate myself, because it could be a self-defence.'




About recent research

- February and May 2019
- 8 + 8 interviews at the beginning and the end (Performing Skills & DIE)
- Original intention was students in teacher training therefore my questions based on TES (Teacher Efficacy Scale)
- Questions about
 - Change your point of view
 - Acceptance of others
 - Self-confidence
 - Assertive behavior
 - Social competences

Results

- Changing point of view: 5 people
- Acceptance of others: 4 people
- Self-confidence: 2 people, and it was their aim at the beginning (another one also wanted but there was no success)
- Assertive behavior: 5 people. And another one didn't develop but reflected his submissive behavior
- In connection with social competences two people highlighted that his/her communication skills developed.

Results

- 7 interviewees from 8 said that social competences should be developed in higher education.
- 1 interviewee said that one had to get academic knowledge in higher education  but this course was great and freed so maybe this was necessary in higher education
- 2 interviewees emphasized that young adulthood was like adolescence so you need every possible support

Conclusions

- Drama in Education, Playback Theatre Method and other drama methods (e.g. creative drama) can be used to develop social competences
- Longer courses can be better to built trust and self-awareness (or the trainer/lecturer has to pay attention to built them)
- Reflection and self-reflection have to be part of the process



Thank you for your
attention.

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