



The English Festival: An Extension of Learning and an Innovative Educational Approach

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About the Researcher

Academic Background

01

B.A. in English Language and Literature

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

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Specialisation in Special Education

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

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M.A. in Language Education for Refugees and Migrants (LRM)

Hellenic Open University, Patras, Greece

Professional Profile

English Language Teacher

Teaching since 1999

Creator of the English Festival

Innovative educational event integrating arts and language

Founder of Learner Teacherhood

A free online learning campus

Author

Educational resources and literary adaptations



What is the English Festival?

The English Festival is an innovative educational approach that integrates multiple creative disciplines to create **authentic learning experiences**.



Theatre

Dramatic performances that bring language to life through storytelling and character.



Music

Songs and compositions that reinforce vocabulary, rhythm, and expression.



Poetry

Verse and spoken word that develop linguistic sensitivity and creativity.



Creative Writing

Original compositions that empower students to express ideas in English.



Cultural Presentations

Intercultural exchanges that broaden awareness and global understanding.



ICT-Supported Learning

Technology-enhanced activities that engage 21st-century learners.

The English Festival as an Extension of Learning

Authentic Language Use

Real communicative contexts beyond the textbook

Student-Centred Learning

Learners take ownership of their educational journey

Creativity and Expression

Arts-integrated activities unlock individual potential

Collaboration

Teamwork and shared goals foster social learning

Intercultural Awareness

Exposure to diverse cultures enriches language learning

Active Participation

Hands-on engagement deepens understanding and retention

Theoretical Framework

The English Festival is grounded in a rich body of educational theory, drawing on six interconnected frameworks that together support holistic, inclusive, and effective language learning.



Multiple Intelligences

Gardner's (2011) theory recognises diverse cognitive strengths, enabling every learner to engage through their preferred modality.



Inclusive Education

All learners participate fully regardless of background, ability, or learning profile.



Experiential Learning

Dewey's (1938) principle that learning is most meaningful when rooted in direct experience.



Differentiated Instruction

Tomlinson's (2017) approach tailors content, process, and product to individual learner needs.



Intercultural Communication

Byram's (1997) framework develops cultural awareness alongside linguistic competence.



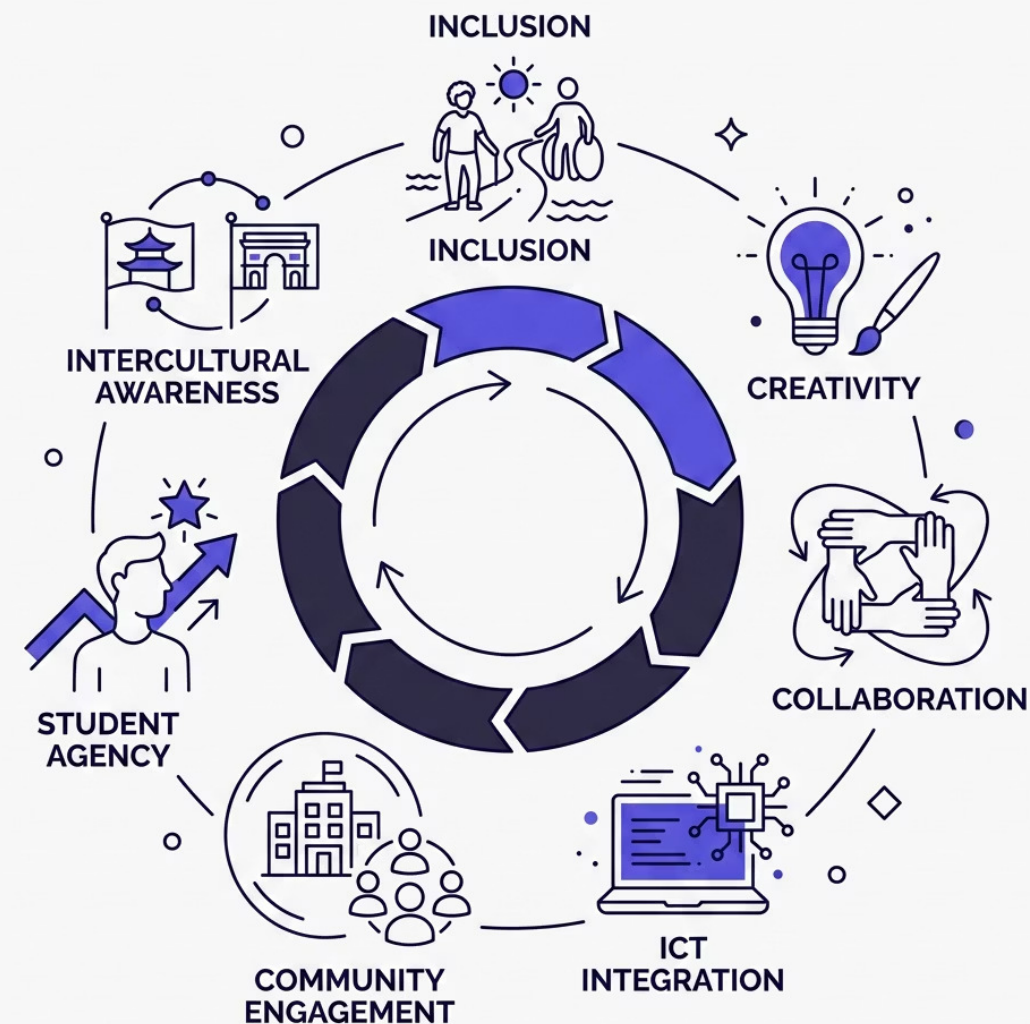
ICT-Enhanced Learning

Dudeney, Hockly & Pegrum (2013) highlight digital literacies as essential for 21st-century language learners.

Core Educational Principles

The English Festival is built upon seven foundational principles that together create a transformative, student-centred learning environment. These principles are not isolated — they are deeply interconnected, each reinforcing the others to form a coherent and inclusive pedagogical model.

i These principles guide every aspect of the Festival's design, from event planning to assessment and community engagement.



Adaptation-Based Language Learning

A distinctive feature of the English Festival is the **adaptation of literary works, theatrical plays, and audiovisual materials** into educational scripts specifically designed for language learning. This approach bridges canonical literature and contemporary media with the communicative needs of learners, making complex texts accessible, engaging, and pedagogically purposeful.

Adaptations are carefully crafted to preserve the essence of the original work while scaffolding language at an appropriate level, ensuring all students can participate meaningfully.

Featured Adaptations



1

Fawlty Towers: The Hotel Inspectors (2026)

A comedic television classic reimagined as an interactive language learning script, developing conversational fluency and humour in English.

2

The Importance of Being Earnest (2025)

Oscar Wilde's celebrated play adapted to engage students with Victorian wit, wordplay, and sophisticated dialogue.

Innovative Learning Pathways

The English Festival offers a rich variety of learning pathways, each designed to engage different learner strengths and foster authentic language use through creative, collaborative, and technology-enhanced activities.



Drama-Based Learning

Students rehearse and perform theatrical scripts, developing fluency, confidence, and communicative competence.



School Band

Young musicians perform English-language songs, integrating musical intelligence with language acquisition.



Music and Poetry

Original and adapted compositions bring rhythm, rhyme, and emotional expression to language learning.



Choreographies

Movement-based performances combine kinaesthetic learning with linguistic and cultural expression.



Cultural Presentations

Learners research and present on diverse cultures, fostering intercultural awareness and global citizenship.



ICT-Supported Learning

Digital tools and multimedia productions enhance engagement and develop 21st-century literacy skills.

Research Setting

The English Festival serves as the **primary research environment** for this doctoral study, providing a rich, naturalistic setting in which language learning, creativity, and inclusion intersect.



Theatre Performances

Live dramatic productions observed and documented as sites of authentic language use



Music Performances

Band and vocal performances analysed for linguistic and affective engagement



Creative Projects

Student-led creative outputs examined for evidence of language development and agency



Cultural Presentations

Intercultural activities studied for their impact on awareness and communicative competence



ICT-Supported Productions

Digital and multimedia outputs reviewed for 21st-century literacy development



Collaborative Learning Activities

Group processes observed to understand social dimensions of language learning

Methodology

This study employs a **Mixed-Methods Research Design**, combining qualitative depth with quantitative breadth to capture the full complexity of the English Festival as a learning environment. Participants include both students and teachers.

STUDENTS & TEACHERS



Engaged in mixed-methods research design

QUALITATIVE METHODS



Interviews, reflective journals, observations, field notes

QUANTITATIVE METHODS



Questionnaires, surveys, participation records

THEMATIC & DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS



Mixed-methods data analysis and interpretation

Qualitative Strand

- In-depth interviews with students and teachers
- Reflective journals capturing personal learning narratives
- Classroom and event observations
- Field notes documenting contextual details

Quantitative Strand

- Questionnaires measuring attitudes and perceptions
- Surveys assessing learning outcomes
- Participation records tracking engagement levels

Analysis

- Thematic analysis for qualitative data
- Descriptive statistics for quantitative data

Ethics and Accessibility

The English Festival is designed with a strong commitment to ethical practice and equitable access, ensuring that **every student can participate fully** regardless of socioeconomic background or circumstance.

✓ Written Parental Consent

All participants' families provide informed written consent prior to involvement in research activities.

✓ Consent for Online Dissemination

Separate consent is obtained for any online sharing of student work or performances.

✓ No Financial Burden on Families

Participation is entirely free of charge, removing economic barriers to engagement.

✓ Free Costumes and Resources

All educational materials and costumes are provided at no cost to students or families.

✓ Free Venue by the Municipality

The local municipality provides the performance venue, ensuring community-level support.

✓ Community Support

Broad community involvement reinforces the Festival's inclusive and collaborative ethos.

Expected Contribution

This study investigates the potential of the English Festival to make a meaningful and transferable contribution to the field of language education. The research aims to demonstrate that the Festival functions simultaneously as:



An Extension of Learning

Expanding language education beyond the classroom into authentic, community-based contexts



An Inclusive Learning Environment

Welcoming all learners regardless of ability, background, or learning profile



An ICT-Enhanced Pedagogical Approach

Integrating digital tools to enrich and diversify the learning experience



A Multiple Intelligences Framework

Honouring diverse cognitive strengths through arts-integrated, multimodal activities



A Transferable Educational Model

Offering a replicable framework applicable in diverse educational contexts worldwide

References

This research draws on a robust body of scholarly literature spanning educational theory, language pedagogy, and digital literacy.

Gardner (2011)

Frames of Mind: The Theory of Multiple Intelligences.
Foundational framework recognising diverse cognitive strengths in learners.

Dewey (1938)

Experience and Education. Seminal work establishing experiential learning as central to meaningful education.

Tomlinson (2017)

How to Differentiate Instruction in Academically Diverse Classrooms. Practical framework for tailoring teaching to individual learner needs.

Byram (1997)

Teaching and Assessing Intercultural Communicative Competence. Defines the intercultural dimension of language learning.

Dudeney, Hockly & Pegrum (2013)

Digital Literacies. Explores the role of digital competencies in contemporary language education.

UNESCO (2020)

Inclusion and Education: All Means All. Global framework advocating for equitable, inclusive education for every learner.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Language, Creativity, Inclusion and Innovation

The English Festival demonstrates that when language learning extends beyond the classroom — embracing theatre, music, poetry, technology, and community — it becomes a transformative experience that empowers every learner to find their voice.

Language

Authentic communication in real-world contexts

Creativity

Arts-integrated pathways for every learner

Inclusion

Equitable access and participation for all

Innovation

A transferable model for 21st-century education

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