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Getting off the fence

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Propositions as part of the dissertation

‘Getting off the fence: Exploring the role, position, and relevance of literature education in the teaching of English as a foreign language in Dutch secondary education’

by Jasmijn Bloemert

1. The Comprehensive Approach to foreign language literature teaching and learning integrates foreign language development and foreign language related content. (Chapters 2-3)
2. The current tension between how students regard English language literature lessons and how these lessons are currently taught can be reduced by the Comprehensive Approach. (Chapters 2-4-5-6)
3. Purposefully including teachers and students as co-constructors of research knowledge with specific areas of expertise should be a feature of all pedagogical content knowledge research. (Chapters 2-3-4-5-6)
4. Regardless whether teachers assimilated or accommodated, making sense of the Comprehensive Approach led to a heightened sense of awareness and a reconsideration of the EFL literature curriculum. (Chapter 6)
5. Analysing the implementation of educational reform from the point of view of sensemaking and Practicality Theory diminishes the significance of the distinction between high-fidelity and low-fidelity teachers. (Chapter 6)
6. Moving away from the current skills-centrism towards a dual-focused educational approach where foreign language teachers are experts at integrating language skills with foreign language related content (such as literature, cultural affairs, and citizenship) is the way forward for foreign language education.
7. *Getting off the fence* is a call to give foreign language education more relevant content, which is of vital importance in this time when the humanities are under pressure in favor of science education.
8. Pedagogical content knowledge research should have a structural place in NRO's subsidy programmes.
9. In order to sustain the investment in pedagogical content knowledge research in the humanities made by Dudoc Alfa, a subsidy programme for postdoctoral researchers is indispensable.