

Portrait of a Contender

Patrizia Anesa

- University of Bergamo, Italy



This summer, Patrizia Anesa kindly took the time to speak with “Language at Work – Bridging Theory and Practice” about her professional experience at the University of Bergamo, Italy. Teaching at the Faculty of Economics and the Faculty of Education, Patrizia is also affiliated with CERLIS (Research Centre for the study of Specialized Languages).

Besides her native Italian, Patrizia is also proficient in the English and French languages. A passion for travel early in life became the source of inspiration to pursue a Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in English, French, Linguistics and Communication. After completing a PhD degree with a focus on English Discourse Analysis, Patrizia told Language at Work that English is most frequently utilized in teaching and research. However the French language proves useful when it comes to reading research literature.

We asked Patrizia Anesa about what it means to use a foreign language in her daily profession, to which she replied, *“I simply cannot imagine my work, and maybe my life, without the use of foreign languages. All the projects I’ve been involved in over the last few years have implied the use of at least one foreign language. For example, at the moment I’m involved in a project that focuses on training a few Romanian teachers and instructors. Without English as a Lingua Franca, I can’t even imagine how hard things would be!”*

According to Patrizia, besides the benefits that come from extensive knowledge of a foreign language, there is also a level of shared satisfaction in the university setting. *“A lot of Italian students, especially when they are looking for their first job or for an internship, have huge problems finding a position if they cannot demonstrate a good level of a foreign language, especially English. Conversely, one of the greatest satisfactions you can have from this job is when you have a student coming to your office thanking you because his or her level of English is much better after taking some courses with you, having just managed to find the job he or she wanted.”*

Through such personal and professional experiences within a multi-lingual setting Patrizia was able to reflect on the role that language learning has been in the past, and where it is going in the future. *“Languages are a fundamental tool to cross cultural barriers. Learning a language cannot be an activity that is left to the individual’s will, but it*

has to be integrated within a broad program of language training, starting from primary schools to postgraduate education. In order to make life-long training in languages in the industry efficient, companies should work synergistically together with educational institutions. And here our universities could play a crucial role. The objective should be an occasional cooperation but a long-term collaborative approach, with both businesses and educational institutions striving to make the language and communication training a mutual success.”

For more from Patrizia Anesa, please visit the “Language at Work – Bridging Theory and Practice” website. Her article entitled, *“Is ‘good’ communication achievable in jury instructions? Applying communication theory to instances of instructions in jury trials”*, can be found under ‘Issue #2 – Instructions’, on the Themes and Articles page.

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