Abstract

This qualitative research study examined the experiences of Spanish 2 students as they interpreted language resources from the Spanish-speaking world and communicated authentically. The purpose of the study was to expose novice language learners to comprehensible texts and audios in Spanish, and allow them to use the content they learn to communicate in contexts that are relevant and have purpose. Many students isolate the language they learn in their Spanish classes into separate grammatical and vocabulary units, and struggle to connect all that they have learned to express themselves in the target language. By using authentic texts and audios, I showed students the connections between what they had learned in previous classes and the new material that we studied in Spanish 2.

As students interpreted and discussed new resources in class, they saw the real-world application of all that they had learned in their Spanish classes. They were more engaged in the class and were trying to use a variety of structures and vocabulary to express themselves in meaningful interactions.