

# Gudrun Erickson Masterclass

Gudrun's masterclass reflected on her research and developmental interest in foreign languages — how they are manifested and can be assessed, both by the learning individual him/herself and by external players.



Having delegated responsibility for filling in a skeleton curriculum to local professionals (communities, schools, teachers in dialogue with learners) in the 90's, and then discovering that this, and an unexpected lack of resources led to many differences, the Swedish government and public is now looking for ways to monitor and evaluate learning and in particular to reduce differences between schools. They have example tests for many subjects, obligatory tests for literacy and maths, but no exams.

## Biography

Gudrun has been a Senior Lecturer of language didactics at the University of Gothenburg since 1987.

She was commissioned by The Swedish National Agency for Education as project leader for NAFS (National tests for foreign languages), a project aimed at developing national assessment materials for English, French, German and Spanish for compulsory school and upper-secondary education. Partly engaged in ELF, the English reading comprehension subtest of the SweSAT (Swedish Scholastic Assessment Test).

Gudrun is also Project leader for the Swedish part of the Assessment of English study. Engaged in EBAFLS (Building a European Bank of Anchor Items for Foreign Language Skills). She is also Swedish partner representative in ENLTA and currently Secretary/Treasurer of EALTA (European Association for Language Testing and Assessment).

Gudrun has worked, and to a certain extent still does, in teacher education, lecturing about [language] assessment, testing and grading. She is engaged in a number of in-service training projects, focusing on learning, teaching and assessment. Also experienced in national curriculum and syllabus design.

## Research Interests

Her main research and development interest is language competencies — how these are manifested and can be assessed, by the learner as well as by external actors. Focus is on collaborative development of methods and materials, primarily on students' conceptions of, and attitudes to, language assessment and testing — identifying, eliciting and interpreting these conceptions in order to increase the quality of assessment. Gudrun's research and development work is carried out in

national as well as in international projects, with its theoretical framework in an expanded view of validity, emphasising ethical and consequential aspects.

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