

## Abstract 10

### **The Problems Encountered in Using Communicative Language Teaching in Teaching German as a Foreign Language**

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This paper focuses on the difficulties encountered by the teachers in using communicative teaching method in teaching German as a foreign language. The communicative language teaching which emerged in the 1970s and 1980s after the mechanical practice of audio-lingual method consists of interactive communication sessions where the learner is eligible to engage in authentic meaningful communication. The objective of this research is to examine what difficulties are encountered by the teachers in using communicative language teaching method in teaching German as a foreign language at the university of Kelaniya and what steps should be taken to overcome these difficulties in order to use communicative teaching method more effectively. This research is based upon the data collected by a questionnaire distributed among the German teachers, followed by semi structured interviews and classroom observations to analyse their experiences in dealing with the difficulties in using communicative teaching method. According to the findings of the research it was evident that the lack of class room environment suitable for a communicative language teaching, the traditional frontal teaching method which makes the students difficult to adopt to the communicative learning method, and the number of students exceeding the capacity for a communicative classroom were the main difficulties encountered by teachers in using communicative method. It was suggested to divide the students in to small groups to use games and to implement more authentic classroom activities, give students positive encouragement, limit error correction during speaking and to improve the classroom facilities which is suitable for a communicative classroom to get more effective use of communicative teaching.

**Key words:** communication, communicative teaching, difficulties, German, interactive