

One classroom, many worlds: Teaching and learning in the cross-cultural classroom.

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One Classroom, Many Worlds: Teaching and learning in the cross-cultural classroom

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One Classroom, Many Worlds: Teaching and learning in the cross-cultural classroom

Jacklyn Blake Clayton (2003)

Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

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\$20.00.

Multiculturalism is an attitude toward all of life [. . .] understanding on the self and the self of others. Multiculturalism means being proud of the cultural diversity [and] giving up the melting pot.

One Classroom, Many Worlds, as one can infer from the title and Jacklyn Clayton's previous work, is a book of different nature, and many races and lands. Jacklyn Clayton focuses on the cross-cultural experiences of immigrant cultures bring into the classroom from diverse points of view. Thus, the book is a valuable resource for researchers in the field of culture in school settings.

Based on the Kluckhohn model of Value Orientations (Kluckhohn and Strodtbeck 1961; Oriol 1997).

writer's own idea of the middle class prototypical American teacher, this book analyses behavior over the world as seen by typical 'American teachers and people's expectations' (if such type of writer seems to state two unwritten main hypotheses: first, immigrants' behaviors are seen as the common American school teacher; and, second, there are no universals in human values). In these hypotheses, the author challenges all the school bodies to change their way of looking at the multicultural and welcoming academic atmosphere.

The book is divided into nine chapters with a clear orientation that moves from theoretical to practical, finally address the same issue in the school context. The structure of each chapter adheres to the following:

1. The chapter begins with a case study which is solved through the chapter and concludes at the end of the very same chapter.
2. Then the author addresses the theoretical framework with many examples to clearly illustrate the concept.
3. Each chapter also includes some reflective exercises and questions under the heading 'Application' titled 'Try this'. They are self visible as the author displays these exercises and think before going onto the following section.

[-1-]

Besides, at the end of book there is an interesting and extensive bibliography (more than 70 references) and mentions to previous works in the same field from authors like Genelle Morain, a true pioneer in the field, Lantolf or Kauchru, there is little question that the author is more centered in school environment. The authors she mentions are self representative of the interdisciplinary approach she uses.

In reference to the thematic distribution, as stated above, the book is divided into nine chapters. The first chapter is ideological, utopian and full of hope. The rest of the book is distributed in the following way:

- *Chapter One* addresses general issues of culture stressing ethnocentrism as a universal concept. It challenges the reader's ideas about one's cultural perspectives, cultural patterns transfer, and also the role of stereotyping.
- *Chapter Two* points out the necessity to discriminate between our expectations of the future and the reality. To achieve this goal, Clayton explains the concept of socialization as cultural transformation.
- *Chapter Three* tries to illustrate how cultures differ not only geographically in the world (like). As other relevant researchers (Simoes 1981; Scott 1994; Yang 1998), Clayton bases her work on Klockhohn's culture framework which explains and differentiates cultural patterns and also makes a distinction between the cultures aimed at 'being' and 'doing'.
- *Chapter Four* pays special attention to cultural approaches to learning and makes a clear distinction between the different cultural approaches to learning.

styles and social approaches to school procedures (including expected the school's c

- *Chapter Five* addresses a number of issues related to language, thought and how stu information and pragmatic discourse oddness is reflected in the speakers' attitudes in peer or teacher–student interaction). It also claims the importance of mutual resp
- *Chapter Six* looks at forms and meanings of non verbal communication and how spe cultures.
- *Chapter Seven* studies the modes of acculturation (Berry, Kin and Boski, 1988) and th society, at home and in school. The fact that peers and teachers ignore the process o individual's behavior makes socializing communication extremely difficult at times. teachers working with such newcomers by familiarizing themselves with these accul probably miss some type of tables to summarize the differences across cultures.
- *Chapter Eight* emphasizes the practitioner teachers' need to go beyond their expecta understand and learn from their pupils' cultural patterns to acquire an acculturated- and out the class (including the relation with parents as well). [-2-]

Throughout the book, Clayton challenges the teachers' idea that 'all the people are exactly some different and interdisciplinary perspectives: linguistic, sociological, anthropological amusing and reader-friendly and full of illustrative anecdotes but also culturally biased. In middle class teachers' attitudes towards their immigrant students, Clayton unintentionally been a secondary teacher I in Spain for eight years I have also shared some of the feelings mostly interested in the content, I find it difficult to identify myself with the problems and constantly addresses this "white middle class American teachers" (p. 79, 97 and many oth audience but one wonders how much non-American teachers would learn from this excel

Overall, after reading this book, I believe it is quite thorough and extensive in its coverage. the topic from theory to practice and those practical ideas ('Try this' and 'Journal time') mo he can understand, comprehend and sympathize with the newcomers to his own class. Fo bit de-contextualized but also worth to a read due to the different topics covered in the tex reader to keep always in mind that the book is not an end in itself but a starting point for p international readers and also the American ones really learn and love something when it will find that *One Classroom, Many Worlds: Teaching and learning in the cross-cultural clas* because it is very attractively written and deep in its invitation to self commit in providing (native and immigrant). Clayton offers us the opportunity to change our ways, thought an in the modern America (and the rest of the World) classrooms. Consequently, I would cert practicing teachers or public administrators in multicultural settings who will find the boo

One last word

Anyone interested in Clayton's work should visit any of the following websites:

<http://www.alma.edu/academics/education/atrisk.htm>

<http://www.bu.edu/education/faculty/profiles/clayton.html>

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Post-pol pot Cambodia, the magnetic inclination, despite external influences, stereospecific
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