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Content-Based Instruction and its Application to the Arabic Language Classroom
Presented by Salah Ayari
Summary by Nacheda Baroud Tizani

Content-Based Instruction (or CBI), like Thematic Instruction, involves having the teacher go beyond the text book to teach a foreign language in a context that will be relevant to students' everyday lives. Using CBI allows teachers to connect the teaching of a foreign language to other subjects to create lessons that include several areas of subject matter. Arabic lessons can now involve lessons of Social Studies, History, Math, Science, Geography, Islamic Studies, etc. Also, using CBI, the teacher can incorporate various learning tools and materials such as videotapes, texts, audio recorders, websites, computer games, and other visual aids that can both complement and at times supplement the text book instruction. In this way the students are able to learn in an environment that supports a complex and diverse use of the language to prepare them for its continual usage in everyday life.

The benefits of a teacher using CBI versus standard based instruction, is that the use of alternate materials other than textbooks can help to motivate the students to continue their studies of a foreign language, and create a connection to their other subjects. Also, teaching a foreign language through CBI can reinforce material that students have already learned in English. For example, a geography lesson previously taught in English can now be integrated into an Arabic lesson that can strengthen the previous information learned. Students can now see the relevance of the language being used in various ways and in various subjects. CBI can also address the parents' concern of how a foreign language can be used outside the classroom in meaningful ways.

As the teacher becomes more familiar with CBI, they can become more organized in how they go about creating lesson plans that include materials other than the textbook and that

reinforce lessons learned in other subjects. Research has shown that CBI is a complete approach to learning a foreign language, which allows students to excel beyond the classroom and reward them with the ability to be fluent in another language for the rest of their lives.

References used by Presenter:

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Haley, M., Austin, T. (2005). *Content-based second language teaching and learning: an interactive approach. My labschool edition*. New York: Allyn & Bacon.