CONCLUSIÓN

Cada vez el inglés tiene mayor relevancia en nuestra sociedad, y por consiguiente, en nuestro sistema educativo. Gracias al cambio de metodología, enseñamos dicha lengua por destrezas, mejorando así la adquisición del inglés como segunda lengua y el éxito en la comunicación de nuestros alumnos en países extranjeros. Pero para ellos el profesorado debe estar altamente cualificado y saber qué herramientas utilizar para enseñar y evaluar cada destreza. La metodología utilizada, la formación del profesor y su picaresca, serán las claves del éxito de su enseñanza.

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Key competences. Are they useful?

**Título**: Key competences. Are they useful?. **Target**: Todos los profesores de secundaria.. **Asignatura**: Inglés. **Autor**: Raquel Esparza Arizpeleta, Licenciada en Administración y Dirección de Empresas. C1 Ingles., Profesora de inglés en secundaria.

We are living in a Multicultural and globalized world. Effectiveness and competitiveness is the key to belong to the labor force. Nowadays Spain is part of the European Community. Due to the amount of countries, and therefore, the differences among their educational system, the EU needed to design an educational model to help the students to move freely into the European Countries to study in other universities or schools. One of the most important changes was to design and look at the key competences. They were established at the end of the 90’s.

This is not only a European method. In other countries like New Zealand and Australia, the objectives, contents and activities in the classroom are designed taking into account the achievement of the key competences.

What is a competence? It is not correct to talk about skills and abilities because a competence is something else. A competence includes the skills, abilities, knowledge, attitudes and values needed to meet the demands of the task.

Brewerton says that students should accomplish at the end of The Secondary Education the following skills:

1. Participate appropriately in an increasingly diverse society.
2. Be ICT literate: use of the different new technologies.
3. Keep on learning in order to cope with rapidly changing workplaces, (so-called lifelong learning).

But what is a key competence? The DeSeCo project defined them: "They are all the things all people need to know and be able in order to live meaningfully in, and contribute to a well-functioning society.” Brewerton: “Key competences are defined as those competences needed by everyone across a variety of different contexts to meet important demands and challenges.” They might provide a lifelong learning. In my opinion, the most important aspects are motivation and achievement of several tools for lifelong learning. The European Union defined them in this way: "Key competences for lifelong learning are a combination of knowledge, skills and appropriate attitudes to the context. They are particularly necessary for personal fulfillment and development, social inclusion, active citizenship and employment”.

The Key Competences appear in the Spanish Education System with the “Ley Orgánica de Calidad de la Educación (LOCE 2002)”. Here there were mentioned the competences without defining them, or establishing which competences were more relevant. They appear in the Spanish Education System with the “Ley Orgánica de Educación (LOE 2006).

What are the differences between the European competences and the Spanish ones?:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>European Key Competences</th>
<th>Spanish Key Competences</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication in the mother tongue.</td>
<td>Linguistic communication.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication in foreign languages.</td>
<td>Knowledge and interaction with the world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematical competence and basic competences in science and technology.</td>
<td>Mathematics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital competence.</td>
<td>ICT and processing the information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning to learn.</td>
<td>Learning to learn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social and civic competences.</td>
<td>Social awareness and citizenship.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural awareness and expression.</td>
<td>Artistic and cultural aspects.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most of countries realized these educational needs. Many theorists around the world wrote about it. I would like to give an example of the employment of the key competences in other countries: New Zealand. They designed a pack of skills and abilities. After researching and comparing the educational system in several countries they realized that they didn’t have to talk about skills anymore, they have to talk about competences. What are the key competences in New Zealand?
3. Competence in participating and contributing.
4. Competence in relating to others.
5. Competence in thinking.

As far as we can see, the adapted Spanish model is nearly the same as the European one: a common, powerful, sustainable, useful, and motivating education, achieving lifelong learning to succeed in the future and compete with other countries; and very similar to the New Zealand model.

Key competences are essential in a knowledge society and guarantee more flexibility in the labor market, allowing it to adapt more quickly to constant changes in an increasingly interconnected world.

The European Union countries should try to ensure:

1. That the Secondary Compulsory Education offer all young people the means to develop the key competences to a level that equips them or adult and working life, thus also providing a basis for the future learning.
2. That an appropriate provision is made for young people who are disadvantaged in their training, so they can fulfill their educational potential.
3. That appropriate infrastructure is in place for continuing education and training for adults. They need to be motivated and showed the needed and the tools to keep on learning through their lives. They need to be aware that they need to be flexible and able to change depends on the market requirements.

Because we want the best for our students, we wish them the best future. With our plummeting economy, and with no many hopes, we have to teach through key competences, no matter what subject we are teaching. (In English class, trough diverse materials, cooperative work and our teaching style, students can be taught in nearly all these competences). We will need to have the best workers as possible in our country to face this financial crisis and give them the opportunity to study and work in Europe or overseas. This is why, key competences are so important.

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