

A transition to Language Coach

Interview with Anneke Siemons, Language Teacher, The Netherlands



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Can you describe your professional career before taking the language coaching certification (LCC)?

I've studied Applied Linguistics and have worked as a language teacher ever since. I've more than 20 years of experience in teaching Dutch to business clients. In 2010 I founded my own language school, DNA Languages.

How did you find the course?

I gained lots of insights in how to help people learn languages in a way that makes them responsible for their own learning process, and that tailors language activities even more than I already did. And the brain part was really fascinating.

“The brain part was really fascinating”

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Which highlights or insights did you gain from the LCC?

I realised that as a teacher, even though I was used to tailor the program to the needs of the students, I decided for them how they were going to learn the language. In LCC it's the other way around, the student, or coachee, sets his own goals and activities, so makes himself responsible for his own learning.

What was the immediate impact on your way of teaching after taking the course?

I'm much more aware of the brain state of the student and try to calm the brain in order to learn more efficiently. Furthermore, I now make a clear distinction between the mechanical and mastery goals, whereas I used to first set the functions and notions and then add the grammar. And I'm not teaching grammar anymore, but assess their knowledge and coach them around new or insecure grammar areas.

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Were there any impacts on your personal life during or after the course?

I'm definitely more aware of my listening style, and try to be an active listener, and to ask the right questions in case someone has an issue in his life.

How would you describe your professional development after the course?

I'd be very happy to become a certified neurolanguage coach, but am also eager to learn more about the brain, and to go more into detail in the NLC. So, I'm definitely interested in the advanced course. Besides that, I'm looking forward to promote my services as a NLC on our website, and to start with my first coaching sessions.

Were there any impacts on your learners?

I think they already had the feeling they could come up with suggestions or ask for specific activities in my sessions. The big difference is that now they feel that they have a much more important role in their learning process. And also that they measure if they've achieved their goals.

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