

## Textbook investigation

Three books have been standard resources in second-language pedagogy for American teachers during the past decade: Lee & VanPatten, *Making Communicative Language Teaching Happen*; Omaggio, *Language Teaching in Context*; and Curtain & Pesola, *Languages and Children*. Books are expensive, different people have different interests, and until we see who is in the course we can't pin down every last detail and choice of materials. Your first big assignment, therefore, is to investigate these three texts, choose one (or more!) for yourself, and order it on-line (or maybe obtain locally through Powell's, Barnes & Noble, etc.)

Follow these steps:

- 1) Visit websites that tell about the three books. You can find them by searching under the authors' names (maybe with added keywords like "language") at <amazon.com> and <Barnes & Noble.com>. Both sites offer short reviews; you can also find reviews, more laboriously, in the professional journals. Note the range of prices among booksellers and between new and used editions.
- 2) Choose the book for you; make notes of what influenced your decision, other than price and availability (career interests; your strengths and weaknesses in language teaching; whether you have children, etc.).
- 3) Come to class Thursday (15 January) ready to discuss your choice and to arrange to order it. If you want to order all by yourself and pay the delivery charges alone, you may do so. I expect that groups will form to order together and share the charges.
- 4) Write about your choice as part of the one-page reflection about books, journals and organizations.