



Children Hybrid Integration: Learning Dialogue as a way of Upgrading Policies of Participation

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General aims of this presentation



1. Presenting the results of research on school activities which aimed to enhance and support children's agency and hybrid integration through dialogic interactions, with a specific focus on participation of children with migrant background (CMB).
2. Proposing a reflection on methods of facilitation enhancing and supporting agency, dialogue and hybrid integration of CMB in the education system

Agency and epistemic authority



In the education system, children's agency is shown by rights and responsibilities in producing knowledge, i.e. **epistemic authority** (Baraldi 2015, from Heritage & Raymond 2006; Raymond & Heritage 2005)

From teachers' rights and responsibilities to convey and evaluate knowledge (Luhmann 2002; Mehan 1979) to facilitation that upgrades children's epistemic authority

Recording of activities



	Classes	Recordings
Belgium	16	23
Finland	7	26
Germany	10	26
Italy	33	68
Poland	13	13
Sweden	4	11
UK	20	40
Total	103	207



Field Research



Analysis of classroom activities in

- Nursery schools (5-6 y.o.),
- Primary schools (9-10 y.o.)
- Lower secondary schools (11-12 y.o.)
- Higher secondary schools (15-16 y.o.)



Recording of activities and types of schools



	Nursery	Primary	Lower secondary	Higher secondary
Belgium	-	5	4	14
Finland	-	15	11	-
Germany	10	6	8	2
Italy	17	15	19	17
Poland	-	1	12	-
Sweden	-	2	7	2
UK	-	40	-	-
Total	27	84	61	35



Field Research



Transcription of 93 extracts from recorded interactions

To provide indications and suggestions about best practices and, to less extent, problems in facilitation of children's agency and hybrid integration.

Almost all extracts include sequences in which CMB actively participate in classroom interactions.



General results



Analysis of interactions shows:

- Forms of facilitation
- Mixed forms of facilitation
- Directive forms of facilitation
- Participated teaching



Excerpt 1 (Italy, nursery school)

1. FACm: Pay attention! well look at me you all because now begins the most difficult part where you need imagination. I ask you to speak one at a time when you have ideas raise your hand, and we share them together is that ok? The first question is this: we are pretending to be on a ship and going to this island (.) to make it a beautiful place, if you can, it must be the most beautiful place possible to live. What do you think are the first things you need to live well on this island? The first needs, the first things to think of, does anyone have any ideas? (.) of the needs we might have [of the
2. M6: building houses
3. FACm: for example M6 says as first needs build houses
4. M6: or else when it rains (..) you have to go to a place like the forest where it rains less
5. FACm: but building houses is certainly a need, F1
(..)
6. F1: you must have food
7. FACm: F1 says let's go find some food or you must have it somehow you must have it, F8
8. F8: we can find a treasure
9. FACm: she says while we are there we could also try to find out if there is a treasure. Let's hear F2, M5 and F4 in a row, F2
10. F2: we can drink
11. FACm: water?



Excerpt 1 (Italy, nursery school)

(..)

12. F2: yes

13. FACm: you have to make sure you can drink, M5

14. M5: a shop so we can go and buy food.

15. FACm: you would also put a shop among the first needs: that we have (..) F4

16. F4: sleep

17. FACm: sleep says F4

18. F4: ((nods))

19. FACm: So some a places to sleep, we have the house M6 was talking about before, and in the house there will certainly be a place to sleep too, M3

20. M3: and: we can (2) also eat spaghetti

21. FACm: so he starts to say we have food it has already been said that we needed food, and he starts to say however food can mean so many things let's be more precise and see what foods we want what foods we need and here it could [be

22. M4: [vegetables

23. FACm: he says vegetables see! he says spaghetti, let's go on with M8

24. M8: me I would eat: (??)

25. FACm: I understand, then let's do like this: the need for food is there, then you will prepare a nice menu of the island, the basic things to eat on the island, let's go on with the first needs M2

26. M2: in the woods: it rains less but: you can get lost.

27. FACm: mh:: what can you do to not get lost on the island M2?

28. M6: we can bring the compass!



Excerpt 2 (Italy, primary school)



1. M3m: so in my opinion it means yes to be happy means this because (.) if I think I am accepted respected I am part of the group I am happy to be part of the group, I am happy not to be alone (.) as before but I am part of a group I can express myself- express my feelings, my desires, my ideas, that's what being happy in my opinion
2. F1m: raise her hand
3. FACf: ((it can't be seen but FAC gives her the floor))
4. F1m: in my opinion, yes, however, happiness is not the only important emotion
5. FACf: happiness is not
6. F1m: the only important emotion because to move forward you need other emotions such as sadness and anger
7. FACf: Mh
8. F3: ((also with her hand raised)) in my opinion happiness is made precisely by respect and em:: by someone who accepts you for who you are, and: I mean in my opinion if these elements are not present, you ca: you cannot be happy (?)
9. M3m: so in my opinion yes because: you are happy when someone is polite to you, speaks well of you, and: expresses ideas of :: and: yours: your ideas, and: when: does not: does not make fun of you and he doesn't treat you badly
(..)
10. FACf: all done? (.) Some doubts?
(Missing turns 11-20)



Excerpt 2 (Italy, primary school)

21. M1: we are human and therefore it is normal to get angry and sad, but I do not think it serves to move forward in life

22. F1m: in my opinion yes because in life you cannot always be happy

23. M: yes not in that sense always happy and always cheerful but like anger if you are angry, it is as if (.) you were another person because you have the impulses, and: you isolate yourself because you are angry and you do not want to be with others and this it can also provoke: m: I don't know but bad things anyway. Even sadness same thing

24. F1m: yes b[ut

25. M3m: [and then

26. FACf: wait wait

27. M3m: and then if you are respected, if you are accepted why should you be angry? (.) Indeed I would be very happy (.) I am already accepted but in the first class when I was not yet accepted since I wa:s (.) of another color, I was sad, I played alone, but now that I have been accepted it is not that I'm sad, it's not that I'm angry, of course human beings get angry and sad, but if you are accepted if (you are a great thing) why do you have to be angry? Why are you sad? In fact you have to be- you have to be happy

28. F1m: yes but i don't say you have to be angry when you have to be accepted, when you have to be - when you are accepted you have to be happy, but I say to be angry and sad about: other topics, which then can make you happy later in life

(2.0)

29. F2: in my opinion

(..)

30. FACf: (?)



Excerpt 2 (Italy, primary school)

31. F2: in my opinion so: sometimes sadness helps you (.) because when you are sad a friend arrives and from that moment you feel happy

32. F3: in my opinion, you also need sadness for another thing maybe it is also like a friend but also learn how to get up from a sad thing alone, also believe in yourself more too
(missing turns 33.35)

36. F5: I wanted to say the same thing but in my opinion and: for example when you are sad and: it makes you think and: you ask yourself questions, why am I sad? em: and then go to clarify maybe
(..)

37. FACf: well it seems to me that you have managed to put the two thoughts together (.) that is not that we have excluded one thing or the other, (.) but we have accepted what she said that is and: it is important to be respected it makes you happy, but even in the moments when you are not happy because there may be a problem or because you are angry etc., you are respected even if your anger and sadness are accepted (..) I understand it correctly?

38. F1m: Yes

39. FACf: do you think it's okay in this sense?

40. F1m: yes yes



Excerpt 3 (England, primary school)



- 19M3 Mister? In my Afghanistan they tried to get, I think, resources or something, they said no but then it was a war a long time ago before this one. I think it was for less than 20 years and 1.5 million people died
- 20Tm but again, it's a war about natural resources by the sounds of things, and money. So what's driving this?
- 21M3 Money
- 22Tm Wanting more. Wanting more. Wanting more. What's that?
- 23Children Greedy
- 24Tm Greed can lead to war. If we all sort of shared, and found better systems, then would this happen? We say that, but then I give it all to a really nice year six class bunch, if you got it all and another group nothing, any of you would feel naughty? Nasty?
- 25F1 No
- 26Tm No. What did you simply try and do the best by yourself?
- 27ChD ((many voices overlapping, unclear))
- 28Tm But if, what did I have in M1 group?
- 29M3 Anger
- 30F2 Frustration



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Excerpt 3 (England, primary school)



31 Tm Anger, frustration and fighting. Fighting, interestingly, in a poor country, [civil
32F3 [war

33Tm Can you see how it plays out? Are any of you sitting there going 'Oh my goodness'? I had rich countries getting richer, poor countries getting poorer, and one poor country kept getting poorer and poorer and poorer to breaking point, and they couldn't agree on what to do next and the best thing to do for their resources, they started to argue, but really upset, which is basically the same as having a [civil
34M5 [war

35Tm Exactly the same as Sierra Leone

36M1 But they didn't have their independence taken. My mum told me that they got their independence in like 1970 something

37Tm Often, fledging countries, young countries, it happened in Kosovo, didn't it? So when parts of different countries (.) your brother taught me so much about that, by the way. Your brother, I'm an expert now. But when countries breakoff into smaller countries, they can then often be fighting over resources, land...it's happened all over the world, but sort of, Israel and Palestine...

38M6 yeah, they had a war

39Tm They have been at war for ages over who owns which bit of the country. Kosovo and Serbia...There was a big war there. We are talking millions of people dying a resources, land and money, aren't we? When you get land you get more...

40F5 Money

41Tm And?

42ChD Resources

43Tm Exactly. Yep.



Excerpt 4 (England, primary school)



- 1 Tm But I want to ask you this, right? Because this had a real effect on people last year. Going back to the context of the poem, it's saying , even though I'm old , I still need to talk to
- 2 F1 someone
- 3 Tm You don't have to say this if you don't want to, but who has a grandparent in the room, still? [Grandparents
- 4 F1 [I do. I have a
grandma.
- 5 Tm Now, elderly relatives or anyone. Do you think you talk to them enough?
- 6 F1 No, but I haven't seen them in like 2 years
- 7 M1 No, because of Covid
- 8 Tm Yeah, but do you like talk to them on the phone?
- 9 Tm I can't hear everyone, so let's go around the room. M1 do you talk fairly regularly?
- 10 M1 I can't come up because I'm not French
- 11 Tm Hey, do they speak French?



Excerpt 4 (England, primary school)



12 M1 My dad calls them and then I talk

13 Tm And when you talk to them , and again this is an honest thing, are you engaged in long conversations, or are you trying to get off the phone do you think?

14 M1 I speak to them for 9 to 10 minutes

15 F1 Sometimes, because I haven't spoken to them in a long time, the last time I saw them I had grown engrain. I think it was like three years ago , and I haven't spoken to them come out or I think I have , I think it was like last year. But it was like 20 minutes long that conversation

16 Tm Because what it's saying is, people see people sometimes that are elderly

17 F1 Some people don't wanna talk to them. They find them annoying, some people

18 Tm Why?

19 F1 Because they just keep asking too many questions

20 F2 They are not your generation, so they don't understand things that you like

21 Tm Ok. So a lot of people see older people and go 'oh, you don't understand me, I'm a child, you're 60, 70, 80,'...not everyone, I'm not saying everyone. But I think it's fair to say that some people think that, yeah?

22 F2 Yeah, sometimes

23 Tm Sometimes, but, what this poem is saying, is that I was once. Yeah but not just friendly, I have experiences that you've had...you might have your Xbox, but all you're doing is playing. Did they play when they were younger? =



Excerpt 5 (Italy, secondary school)

1. F6: I'm going, I've finished

2. FAC2f: go go go go F6

(2.0)

3. F6: so well ((show the drawing)) so practically there is an important date 2017 which is when I met my best friend, (..) then there is a house which is in Manila, with three people which would be my grandparents and me, who: practically they are: the most important people, because they are like a- like my family like my second family like parents, because they raised me as a child so for me hh they are parents,

4. FAC2f: sure

5. F6: e:m: then well there is a heart that: means that for me they are: family is the most important thing the thing that comes first, (3) ah: ((smiles)) nothing m:: I finished

6. FAC2f: ok no no, you have been very clear, therefore the family, also the grandparents, because they are all those who have been close to you and have helped you to grow up.

7. F6: yes

8. FAC2f: including [also

9. F6: [yes the people who have always been close to me in the difficult moment I mean in fact my best friend has been a very important person who has always been close to me always always so for me she is the sister that I m: a sister that I lost when I was little so, she was practically my twin sister that I lost, so she is like my sister because she has always been close to me and she supports me in everything

10. FAC2f: she's very precious it's very nice

11. F6: mh mh

12. FAC2f: thank you Ana thank you for [sharing even the most difficult things

13. F6: [you're welcome



Forms of facilitation



Combination of:

- (a) questions enhancing participation (showing interest in children's points of view)
- (b) formulations which summarise, make explicit or develop the gist of children's narratives/contributions
- (c) minimal feedback showing listening and attention and favouring the fluidity of conversations.

Two sub-forms (or phases):

- (1) Questions and formulations supporting children's agency
- (2) Minimal responses allowing children to take the floor continuously



Mixed and directive forms of facilitation



Mixed forms add adults' guidance to facilitation:

They are based on adults' expanded turns of talk which provide comments or explanations about relevant and positive meanings produced by children.

Directive forms include adults' more frequent, or systematic, comments and explanations, combined to normative recommendations.

They decrease the potential for upgrading children's epistemic authority. Teachers/facilitators provide relevant knowledge for children, establishing adult authority in the classroom.



Participated teaching



Teacher's superior epistemic authority, shown by their questions which aim to guide children's answers and to scaffold these answers.

Children generally align with teachers' orientations

When children do not align, teachers tends to avoid negative sanctions.



Some notes on distribution



Forms of facilitation: more frequent in higher secondary schools, above all in Italy and in primary schools (facilitators external to schools)

Mixed and directive forms of facilitation: frequent in nursery schools in which children are more frequently seen in need of guidance for their less fluent participation in conversation and ability in participating in dialogue.

Participated teaching: more frequent in lower secondary schools, above all as second language teaching.



Fluency



Fluency in use of language: problem for several CMB.

When CMB were not fluent, it was more difficult to upgrade their epistemic authority and to involve them in dialogue.

In second language teaching: three **modes** (bib) of teaching second language (materials, improvement of skills and classroom context).

Facilitation was more probable in the classroom context mode, encouraging the production of children's narratives and cultural and intercultural issues



Interactions between children



Autonomous interactions between children in workshops were not rare (Germany, Italy, Sweden), but it was but difficult to record them.

Recordings was possible in Germany and Sweden.

Complete autonomy in managing interactions was not possible, since workshops were based on tasks assigned by the teachers.

Different outcomes, based on different assigned tasks.



Children's evaluation



Classroom interaction was evaluated positively by 68.9% of participants (80.4% of adolescents) and negatively only by 7%.

No substantial differences of gender and migrant/non-migrant background.

For ethical reasons, it was not possible to associate evaluations to single activities.

However, focus group interviews showed that children were able to identify relevant aspects of facilitation and to distinguish between more successful and less successful forms.



Conclusions



Our analysis shows that:

- Some facilitative actions can be particularly relevant in enhancing and supporting (migrant) children's agency and production of narratives
- Different forms of facilitation make a difference for children's agency and production of narratives
- Facilitation is not only effective from the standpoint of researchers but also from that of children

