

# SPEAKING FROM THE HEART

Fostering Intercultural Learning  
in Secondary Education



# OUR TEAM



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# LANGUAGE AND CULTURE: AN INSEPARABLE BOND

A journey to understand why  
learning words alone is not enough



Not just a linguistic tool



Learning a language ≠ just  
knowing grammar



You need to understand how  
and where it is used



Behind every language there is  
a people, a culture and a  
literature



# THE ROLE OF CULTURE

- Language is born and lives within a culture
- Every language reflects customs, values and traditions
- **Understanding a language** = understanding the way of thinking of those who speak it

# MUTUAL INFLUENCE



**Language and culture influence each other**

Social changes = linguistic changes

New words, new meanings → sign of an evolving culture

# LANGUAGE AS REPRESENTATION

A language is a mirror of the people who speak it.

Through language, a community tells its story and recognises itself.

Example: *proverbs, idioms, typical expressions.*



**Chi dorme non piglia pesci** —→ From the world of fishermen, one of the main activities in some parts of Italy: those who are lazy achieve nothing.



**On ne fait pas d'omelette sans casser des œufs** —→ Made famous by Balzac: to achieve results, one must accept sacrifices.

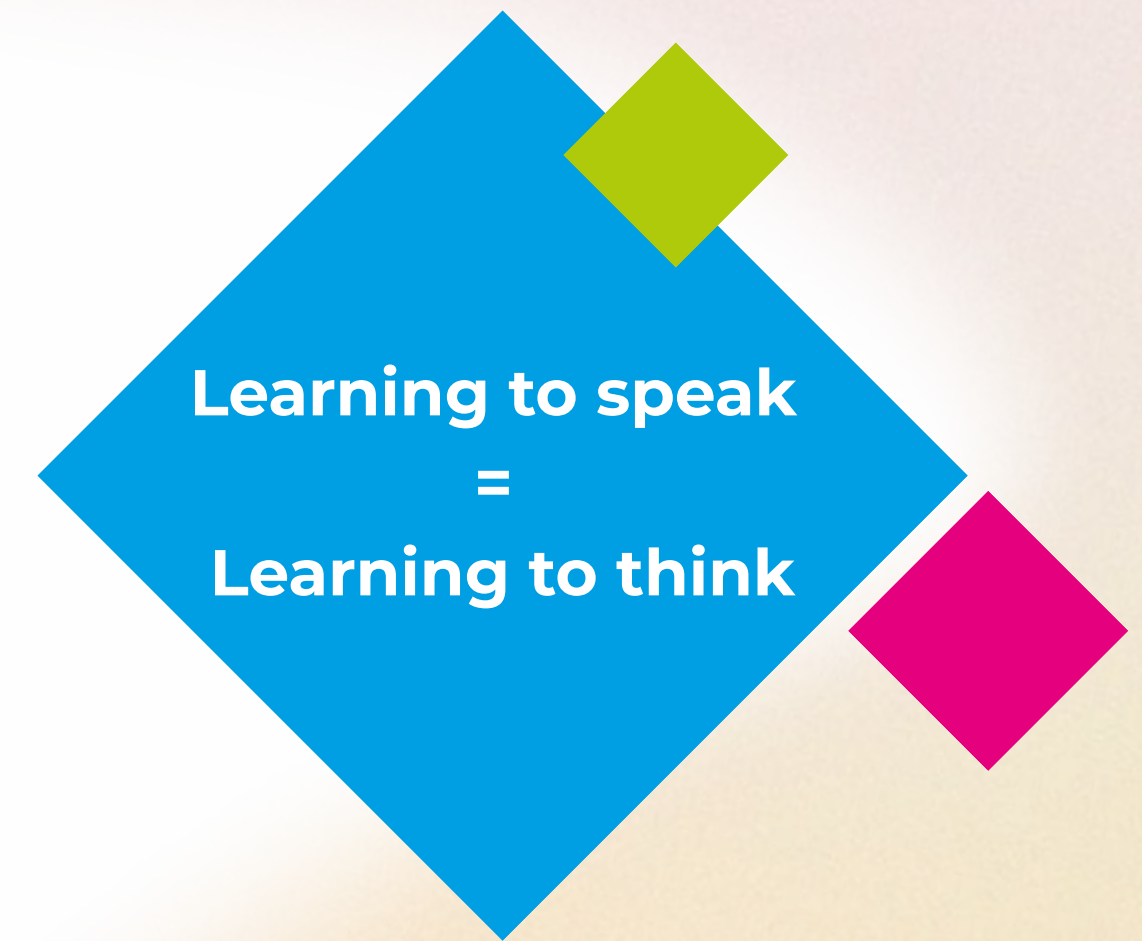
**A buenas horas, mangas verdes** —→ Sarcastic criticism to the military group of the Santa Hermandad: when someone arrives late.



# THEORETICAL REFERENCES:

## VYGOTSKIJ

Vygotsky, a Russian psychologist, said that the mind is a social and cultural product. According to him, **culture and language shape the way we think.**







# LANGUAGES, EMOTIONS AND LITERATURE

By studying emotions, languages and literature together, we can grasp both the universal dimension of emotions and their cultural construction.



**Emotions** are not seen only as subjective feelings, but as complex phenomena **involving the body, mind, language and culture**.



In literature, emotions are not merely described: literary texts explore them, shape them and convey them to readers.



**Reading** promotes **empathy** and **introspection**: reading activates mirror neurons, which enable us to imitate social behaviours, and promotes social interactions or, at least, an understanding of them.



- To explore the relationship between language, identity and emotion.
- To highlight how culture shapes the ways we express and interpret emotions and communicate through language.
- To connect emotions to intercultural understanding, developing awareness of how emotional responses influence, and are influenced by, cultural values and beliefs.





**THANK YOU FOR  
LISTENING!**





Feel free to send in any questions



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