II SIMPOSIO INTERNACIONAL DE DIDÁCTICA DE LA LENGUA Y LITERATURA, $L_1$ Y $L_2$

Editor:
Antonio R. León Sendra
Vicente López Folgado
Mª del Carmen Rodríguez Rodríguez

UNIVERSIDAD DE CÓRDOBA
ÍNDICE

Prólogo pp. i-vi.

La selección de textos en la clase de lengua extranjera. en búsqueda de textos interesantes y motivadores.
Javier Avila pp. 1-16.

The role of the teacher in the teaching-learning process in a situation of immersion in the target language l2- community
Esther Baquero Zamora pp. 17-38.

Cómo se comunica el profesor en el aula de lenguas extranjeras.
Ana Bocanegra Valle pp. 39-52.

El lenguaje de la danza: similitudes en la didáctica de una l2 y la didáctica de la danza.
Rafaela Caballero Romero pp. 53-80

Lo que podemos aprender de la mano de easter bunny
Lucía-Pilar Cancelas y Oviña pp. 81-98
LO QUE PODEMOS APRENDER DE LA MANO DE "EASTER BUNNY"

Lucía-Pilar Cancelas y Oviedo
Universidad de Cádiz

Easter is one of the three great Christian festivals commemorating the resurrection of Christ, held on the Sunday after the first full moon following the Spring equinox, 21st March. Easter is always between March 22nd. and April 25th.

According to the Venerable Bede, the word Easter comes from Old English “Eastre” or “Eostre”, an Anglo-Saxon goddess whose festival was held at the Spring equinox. It used to celebrate the start of Spring and ‘new life’. When the Anglo-Saxons, who converted to Christianity, the old heathen festival became attached to the new Christian one. April was once called “easternmonath”. Another theory, however, suggests that the name comes from “oster”, meaning "to rise."

Today, Easter is a national holiday in Britain and USA. It is mainly a secular and a family feast. School closes for two weeks.

For a long time it has had a religious character; this is a Christian holiday which celebrates the day when Jesus came back from the dead. Holy Week is the religious term for Easter and it is used in religious environment (services, etc.).

Shrovetide covers the last three or four days before the beginning of...
Lent. The old names for these days were Egg Saturday, Quinquagesima Sunday, Collop Monday and Shrove Tuesday. "Shrove" comes from the old Roman Catholic practice of confessing sins and being shrunken or shrove - that is, obtaining absolution. This was carried out on Ash Wednesday, the day in February when the Christian period of Lent begins. This refers to the time when Christ went into the desert and fasted for 40 days. From a religious point of view, the end of the Lent can be considered the departure date for Easter. Although not many people actually give up eating during this period, on Pancake Day, celebrated on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, they eat lots of pancakes. In past centuries, Lent was a time of fasting. Both meat and eggs were forbidden throughout the six weeks. The tradition was to eat up all your meat on the Monday before Lent, and all your Eggs on the Tuesday - in pancakes (Hot Cakes in U.S.A).

Now the fasting has gone and only the eating remains. Pancakes are made from flour, milk, eggs and fried in a hot pan. British eat pancakes with fresh lemon juice and sugar or syrup. Some people celebrate Pancake parties and the guests bring the ingredients to prepare pancakes.

Two events are associated with Shrove Tuesday:

* One of them is the Pancake Tossing Contest: It consists of how many pancakes you can throw into the air and catch within a certain time.

* The other is the Pancake race: In some towns you may see a pancake race, often run by women. Contestants have to run with a pancake in a frying-pan continuously tossing it. Anyone who drops his or her pancake

Lucía Pilar Cancelas y Ovidio
is disqualified.

There are a number of traditional Pancake Rhymes. The most common is:

Mix a pancake,

Stir the pancake,

Pop it in a pan,

Fry the pancake,

Toss the pancake,

Catch it if you can.

There is also a traditional rhyme, similar to "trick or treat" rhymes at Hallowe’en:

Nicky, Nicky, Nan

Give me some pancakes or I’ll be gone

But if you give me none

I’ll throw a great stone

And down your house will come

Another Pancake Rhyme is dated in 1684 and collected in "Poor Robin’s Almanack":

Lucía Pilar Cancelas y Oviedo
But hark, I hear the Pancake bell,

And fritters make a gallant smell,

The cooks are baking, frying, boyling,

stewing, mincing, cutting, broyling,

carving, gormandizing, roasting,

carbonating, cracking, slashing and toasting.

The annual Pancake Race at Olney, Buckinghamshire, is a popular tourist attraction, and has been running since the 15th century. According to tradition, in 1445 a woman of Olney heard the shriving bell while she was making pancakes and ran to church in her apron, still clutching her frying-pan.

**HOLY WEEK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DOMINGO DE RAMOS</th>
<th>JUEVES SANTO</th>
<th>VIERNES SANTO</th>
<th>DOMINGO DE PASCUA</th>
<th>LUNES DE PASCUA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PALM SUNDAY</td>
<td>MAUNDY THURSDAY</td>
<td>GOOD FRIDAY</td>
<td>EASTER SUNDAY</td>
<td>EAST MONDAY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lucía Pilar Cancelas y Ouvina
Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday are exclusively celebrated by people who attend services regularly, the people who participate in Holy Week.

Nowadays, the rest of the week is a secular festival, and most of the people have forgotten its religious sense.

Palm Sunday

During the morning people go to mass. It is a happy Service. Generally children of the Sunday School perform a play based on the Gospel. They come back with Palm Crosses from the Church Service.

Maundy Thursday

This is the day before Good Friday. Maundy is the religious ceremony of washing the feet of the poor in commemoration of Christ washing the disciples’ feet. At one time the Queen or the King washed the feet of poor people on Maundy Thursday. Royal Maundy was begun in the reign of Edward III and is Britain’s oldest charity. That stopped in 1754. Currently, the Queen gives Maundy money to a group of poor people. On this day people go to church in the evening. It is a serious service.

Maundy Thursday is the day of mandate (the Latin “mandatum” means “command”) and it refers to the words of Jesus after he had washed his disciples’ feet: “A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another”.

Lucía Pilar Cancelas y Ovviña
Good Friday

This is the strange name in English for the day commemorating Christ's Crucifixion. Practising Christians go to church in the evening.

On Good Friday bakers sell Hot Cross Buns, which are toasted and eaten with butter. The first Christians in Rome made Hot Cross Buns two thousand years ago. But now they are an Easter tradition in Britain.

There is a very well-known Nursery Rhyme related to this tradition.

Hot Cross Buns, Hot Cross Buns

One a penny, two a penny

Hot Cross Buns, Hot Cross Buns

If you have no daughters,
give them to your sons,

One a penny, two a penny

Hot Cross Buns, Hot Cross Buns

We can make some variations with the same tune to sing with the children:

- Easter Egg...
- Chocolate Rabbits...

- Simnel Cake...

..... instead of Hot Cross Buns.

Easter Sunday

Some people go to church in the morning where a little play representing the Passion is performed.

Easter is associated with eggs and it is natural for eggs to be prominent at this season. Eggs and chicks are symbols of Easter. They are symbols of birth, resurrection and new life. Other symbols of Easter are daffodils, spring flowers, lambs and rabbits. Many of these symbols are found on Easter cards.

Sunday is the day of Easter eggs. The origin of this tradition is popularly found in the stone which was covering Jesus’ Tomb. The breaking of the egg represents Jesus’ resurrection. They were forbidden food during Lent, but they came into their own again on Easter Sunday and were given as presents to friends and servants.

About 100 years ago people made eggs from sugar and marzipan. Today, Easter eggs are usually made of chocolate. Children are given chocolate Easter eggs on Easter Sunday.
Usually adults hide Easter eggs in the garden or in the house and children go out to find them (Easter Hunt). Children give painted eggs made by themselves to grown ups. Colouring eggs at Easter is a custom as old as the festival itself, and has a pagan origin that Christianity adapted for its own use. There are a lot of decorations with this motif.

There are special parties for children, some adults dress up as the Easter Bunny, the Easter Duckling and the Easter Rabbit (this custom is more widespread in the USA.) who are considered to be the beings who make and give Easter eggs. Hares have always been associated with Easter, too, for the animal was sacred to Eostre. (The "Easter Bunny" is a modern mis-nomer). Ritual hare-hunts once took place in England so that the goddess could be propitiated by a sacrifice. Its place is taken by the Easter rabbit, the symbol of fertility and periodicity both human and lunar, accredited with laying eggs in nests prepared for it at Easter or with hiding them away for children to find. At Easter people used to wear special hats, called bonnets. They were always new.

In the United States, thousands of Easter eggs are hidden in the gardens of the White House. Children have to find them with the help of the President on Easter Sunday. Some cities have Easter parades with games and sports and a big Easter egg hunt.

There are some Easter games such as:

* Egg Rolling: It is played in places where there is a hill. Everybody has a painted egg. Roll the eggs down the hill. The last egg to break is the winner!
* Hide and Seek: Hide the painted eggs. Tell your friends to look for the eggs.

* Egg and Spoon Race: In this race each contestant has a spoon with and egg on it. They have to reach the end without dropping and breaking the egg.

There is a family meal around 2 p.m.. Simnel Cake is usually eaten at this family meal. As a spring custom, Simnel Cake has a long history but its origins are clouded in mystery.

One legend has it that the father of Lambert Simnel, pretender to the throne during the reign of Henry VII, was a baker and concocted a cake in honour of his son’s bid for glory- which means that the traditional recipe is nearly 500 years old.

Children can bring Easter to life with chicks and bunnies cleverly made from dough. These Easter animals are great fun to make and tasty.

Easter Monday

*Easter Monday* is a public holiday and many people travel to the seaside for the day or go and watch one of the many sporting events, such as football or horse-racing.
Indeed Easter involves a four-day weekend, and some of the customs and traditions associated with it have remained, such as the consumption of Chocolate Easter eggs by children and the tradition of eating Hot Cross Buns on Good Friday. People send special Easter cards as at Christmas time, there are two kinds of greetings cards:

* Informal Easter cards for children, young people and people who are not religious; these are funny, and full of colours and pictures

* Religious Easter cards for adults and religious people. They have messages from the Bible and Christian motifs.

It is common for children in Britain to go on outings during school holidays, organised by their school or their family.

Then, Easteride comes, this is the name of the period around Easter, the fifty days from Easter to Whitsunide.

The Spanish "Diseño Curricular Base de Lengua Extranjera para Educación Primaria" suggests that we should include in our classroom aspects of British and American daily life, specially those that interest children of this age group, such as festivals, traditions, games, dips,
sports etc. We want to encourage children to take an interest and develop a positive attitude towards the foreign country and its people.

We can analyze the differences and similarities between the customs of Spain and English-Speaking countries. We can learn more about ourselves and our own country and that we are not as different as we think. The customs of giving Easter eggs is widespread in Catalonia (Spain) and they are called "Mona de Pascua". Some games such as Egg Rolling are played in some parts of Eastern Andalusia on Easter Sunday.

Culture is now part of most of the language teaching programmes and textbooks in Primary School.

_Easter_ can be used as a cross-curricular topic (Cultural Studies, Art and Crafts, Music and Drama, History, Children's Literature ...) that fits in very well with the methodology proposed by the Reform (Project and Task-Based Work).

In this article you will find some proposals for integrating _Easter_ in the English class and some material on the market dealing with this topic.

You can present it showing them a video tape recorded in Britain. It is a good way of introducing _Easter_, to create interest in them. They will feel that you are explaining real things. The video "We're Kids in Britain" (Longman) provides an invaluable cross-cultural input including an episode covering Easter and Pacake Day. This video, aimed at beginners, features the lives of some children in Britain. It has a graded
script, making it suitable for use in the first or second year of English alongside any primary course. It also has an accompanying Activity Book providing a wealth of activities for pre-viewing and viewing, as well as follow-up tasks.

Richmond Publishers have a collection of three videos called "Our Favorite Stories on Video" (Richmond Publishing). The third video tape includes a story named "Max’s Chocolate Chicken". It has an accompanying Activity Book, which contains simple vocabulary work, puzzles, sequencing activities, cutting and sticking, matching and colouring activities. This story is about two rabbits: Max and Ruby who are looking for Easter eggs.

With this story they can revise familiar topics, like colours, and they can extend their knowledge. We will do lots of activities for exploring this viewing, for example, silent viewing, etc.

If you want to show them how to make an Easter egg you can play the video tape "My first Activity Video" (Dorling Kindersley Ltd.) which is a practical guide to make some fun things like Easter eggs, a Jack O’Lantern, Puppets, Masks, etc.

There are some authentic storybooks that deal with this topic. This is a good and lively way of introducing Children’s Literature in Primary School. One of them is "First Spot’s Easter". This is a flap book, full of colours, that invites the child to play with the book. They have to discover and make predictions about where the Easter eggs are hidden. The same activities proposed above can be used with this one.
Another authentic storybook is "Peter pixie and the Easter rabbit". This is a book of read-along sticker stories. This is the story of Peter the pixie who sees the Easter Rabbit from his window. The Rabbit is delivering chocolate presents to all the children. Peter decides to accompany him around the houses and to the factory where the chocolate eggs are made.

I use this book for reading in chorus. Each page of the book is presented as a cloze-test. There are some boxes with pictures instead of words. First of all, we introduce the new vocabulary with flashcards. Then we make some hand-made slides. We read the text for them and they have to complete it while seeing the slides. With this activity you encourage them to participate, and it is a good way for revising vocabulary and introducing them into reading.

In Primary School kids can do some projects and activities related to Easter:

- A big Easter Dictionary: Divide the class into groups and each group makes a page of the book. In each page there will be a picture of the object and its name in English.

- Make a Wallposter with all the instructions for making an Easter Egg: How to make an Easter Egg: 1) Boil the egg for 5 minutes, 2) Dry the Egg, 3) Paint and decorate it, 4) Varnish it with nail polish, 5) Give it to your parents on Easter Sunday.

- Paint and decorate real eggs following the instructions on the
wallposter.

- Make an Easter card for greeting someone.

- In collaboration with the Physical Education Teacher organize some of the races and contests explained in this article, such as, Pancake Race, Egg and Spoon Race, etc.

- Learn the Nursery Rhyme 'Hot Cross Buns'. The lyrics of this song will be presented as a hieroglyphic.

- Organize an Easter party.

- Our students can learn and recite some rhymes related to Easter:

1) The first one is an action rhyme specially recommended to little kids:

_The Easter Bunny's feet_

*Go hop, hop, hop,*

(Stamp, stamp, stamp)

*While his big pink ears*

*Go flop, flop, flop,*

(Hands up to head for ears, flopping in turn)

*He is rushing on his way*

*To bring our eggs on Easter Day*
With a hop, flop, hop, flop.

(Stamp, flop, stamp, flop)

2) *Five Hot Cross Buns in a baker’s shop,*

*Round and fat*

*With a cross on the top;*

*Along came ⁹ with just ten p.*

*He bought a Hot Cross Bun,*

*And took it home for tea.*

The book *Profile U.K.* includes a chapter about Religion where there is a text (pp 74-75) for working with Intermediate Students analysing Easter and the changes that this festival has undergone in the last years.

Some realia, such as, Easter eggs, chocolate Easter Bunnies, etc, are available in Marks & Spencer in Seville (Plaza del Duque) or in Gibraltar two or three weeks before *Easter.*

I hope that this article has provided a wide range of activities for you to do in your classroom and that it has offered a wider vision of *Easter.* Bear in mind, that *Easter* is more than painting Easter Eggs.
Bibliography

Ashworth, J. & J.


Byrne, J. & A.

Waugh, 1990 *Jingle Bells and Other Songs*, O.U.P.,
(Book + Cassette)


Palmer, G. & N.


Rabley, S. 1992 *Customs and Traditions in Britain*, Longman,


Tomalin, B. & S.


Tomscha, T. 1994 *American Customs and Traditions*, Longman,

Ristot, V. 1992 *Peter pixie and the Easter rabbit*.

Éditions Lito.


Videos:

Ellis, G. 1997 *We’re Kids in Britain*, Longman, Essex.

A thirty minutes video cassette with an Activity Book.

*My First Activity*

Video 1991 *Things to make and do*. Dorling Kindersley Ltd. & Video School Ltd.

Video 3. 1995 *Our Favorite Stories On Video*.

Video Cassette containing the story. "Max’s
Chocolate Chicken". London: Richmond Publishing. It has an Activity Book.

1 Venerable Bede was an Anglo-Saxon priest, theologian, historian and chronologist in the 8th century. He is best known today for his "Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum", a source vital to the history of the conversion to Christianity of the Anglo-Saxon tribes. His first treatise on chronology "De temporibus" (On Times) was written in 703. In 725 he completed a greatly amplified version "De tempore ratione" (On the Reckoning of Time). Both these books were mainly concerned with the reckoning of Easter.

2 Archaic spelling.

3 There will be some differences depending on the religious denomination although in the Church of England where there are two branches:
   * Low Church
   * High Church (This is more similar to the Roman Catholic Church).

4 Language from the Authorised Version of the Bible (King James Version).
   Unto> onto, ye>you.

5 Sweet bun (usually containing currants) marked with a cross.

6 Authentic storybooks are those which have not been written specifically for the teaching of English as a foreign language so the language has not been selected or graded. They were written for English-speaking children and they provide examples of "real" language and help to bring the "real" world into the classroom.

7 A Flap Book is a book that contains some hidden messages or pictures behind flaps that have to be raised by the children while reading the book.

8 Substitute the name each time.