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Promoting Creativity in the Teaching of Literature through the Interconnection of Literature and Music

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Abstract

In this research, we tried a systematic investigation of fostering creativity while teaching literature in Secondary Education by using an interart type of approaching literary texts. In particular, through iterative trials and reconsideration, we aimed at the gradual configuration of an innovative teaching intervention plan by systematically integrating music to literature teaching, in order to reinforce participants' creativity. The research was based on Creative Pedagogics and Interart Study / Intermediality, concerning the correlation between literature and music. Driven by some predetermined indications of creative thinking and behaviour – connective thinking, originality, imagination, mindfulness, aesthetic perception – a qualitative investigation was carried out, following the stages of Design – based Research strategy. During two successive phases of research teaching in third class of a Music High School in Attica, we collected data through research diaries, focus group discussions, students' written texts, questionnaires and analyzed them using the method of Thematic Analysis. The results are presented in correspondence with the research questions, which mainly concern the frequency of appearance of creative indications in data sources. During the research, further aspects and additional indications of creative thinking and behavior seemed to emerge. Also, the way of relating the literary text to the music (thematic association, ratio of technique, setting a poem to music or other) as well as the literary genre of the text seemed to influence the results. In conclusion, we point out that several findings of practical and theoretical significance for the development of the interart aspect of Literature Creative Didactics emerge.

Keywords: Creative Didactics; Creative Pedagogics; Interart Study; Intermediality; Design – based Research