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“Transcultural competence and English literature classes. A reconstructive study on the use of fictions of migrations in the EFL classroom.”

Even though the potential of fictions of migration to foster transcultural competence in the English foreign language (EFL) classroom is broadly emphasized within the field of foreign language learning and teaching (cf. e.g. Alter 2014; Doff/Schulze-Engler 2011; Freitag-Hild 2010; Schulze-Engler 2006; Sommer 2001), until now it has not been researched which processes take place when teachers, students and literary texts interact with each other in the actual situation. The PhD project approaches this research gap within foreign language literature classes by focusing on the observation and reconstruction of interactional processes that may foster transcultural competence among students in year 8 to 12 (cf. Nünning/Surkamp 2006). Against this background, two research questions can be followed. Which interactional processes take place when fictions of migration are used in class by the teacher? What opportunities are there to engage in negotiations of meaning and how are they used by students and teachers as well as coconstructed by students?