



CASLT PODCAST SERIES

Effective Practices for Improving French as a Second Language Education

FSL Learning Among Boys **Scott Kissau**

About the Author

Scott Kissau was a French immersion teacher for 11 years. He is now an assistant professor of foreign language methodology at the University of North Carolina where he continues his research relating to language learning among boys.

Content of this Podcast

Scott Kissau shares some aspects of his research on FSL learning among boys.

Facts

- ✓ Societal perceptions are at the origin of boys not wanting to study French. Studies have shown that the French language is often associated with what are traditionally perceived as more feminine interests such as romance, wine, and perfume. A boy who is interested and talented in this language may also be perceived as effeminate.

What you can do as a French teacher to dispel these myths:

- In French class, discuss a variety of topics including those viewed to be more masculine in nature, such as sports. This can help make French class more suitable for males, which in turn will lead to fewer negative societal repercussions for boys who continue their studies in the language.

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- Expose boys to more male French-speaking role models, such as guest speakers, male former students, males from French language schools and especially male French teachers. Having male students encounter a diverse group of French-speaking males demonstrates that French is not just for females and that there are multiple forms of masculinity.

Further Reading

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Williams, M., Burden, R. & Lanvers, U. (2002). French is the language of love and stuff: student perceptions of issues related to motivation in learning a foreign language. *British Educational Research Journal*, 28 (4), 503-528.