



NorQuest | CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE IN
COLLEGE **INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION**

innovative intercultural solutions



Intercultural Interactions: Navigating the Secret Language of Work

TESL Canada

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Acknowledgments

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Factor 7 Counting Sticks



A Definition for Pragmatics

Pragmatics is “the ability to use language to carry out **everyday** functions in culturally-appropriate ways.” (emphasis ours)

(LoCastro, 2003, p. vii)



Why is this funny?



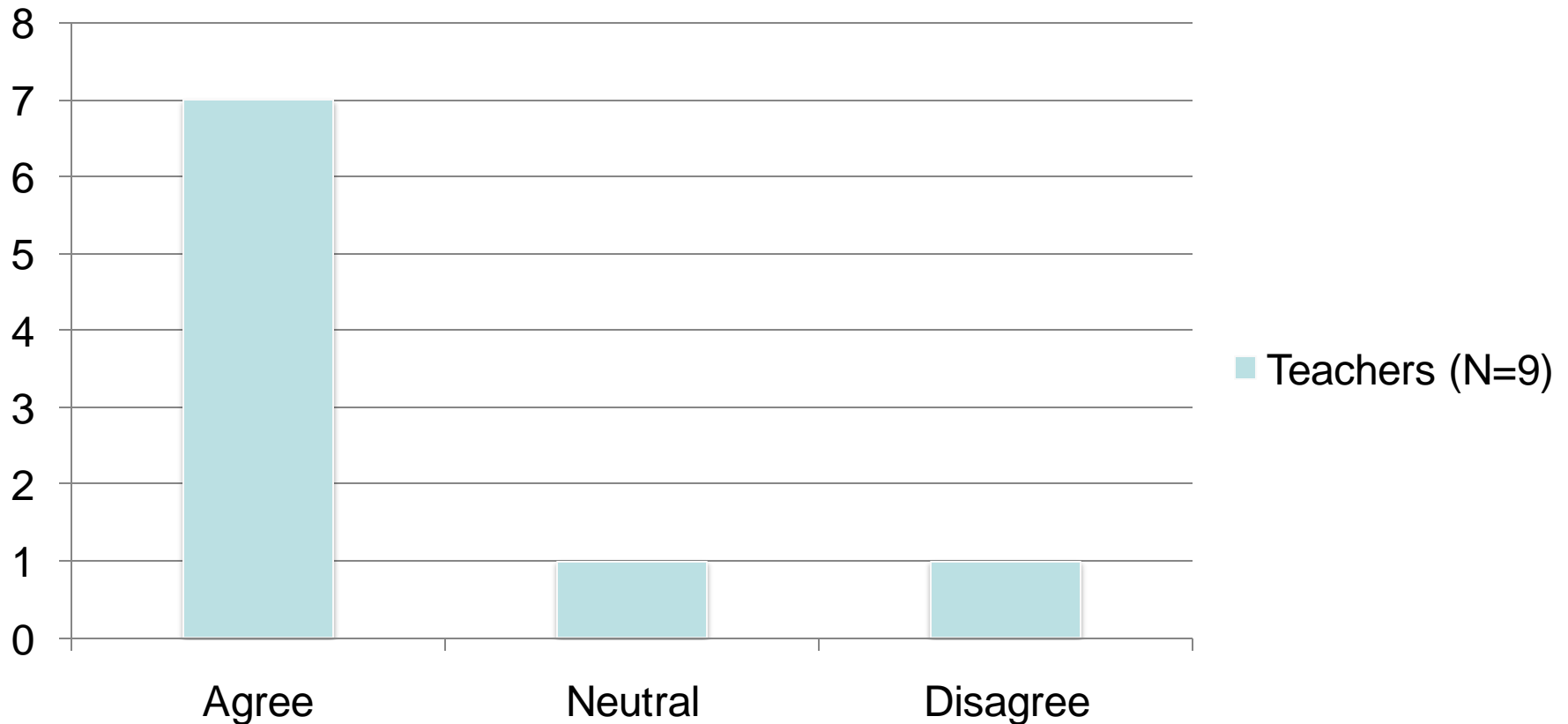
Learning Pragmatics

“Left to their own devices with respect to contact with the target language in and out of the classroom, the majority of learners **apparently do not acquire the pragmatics of the language on their own.**”

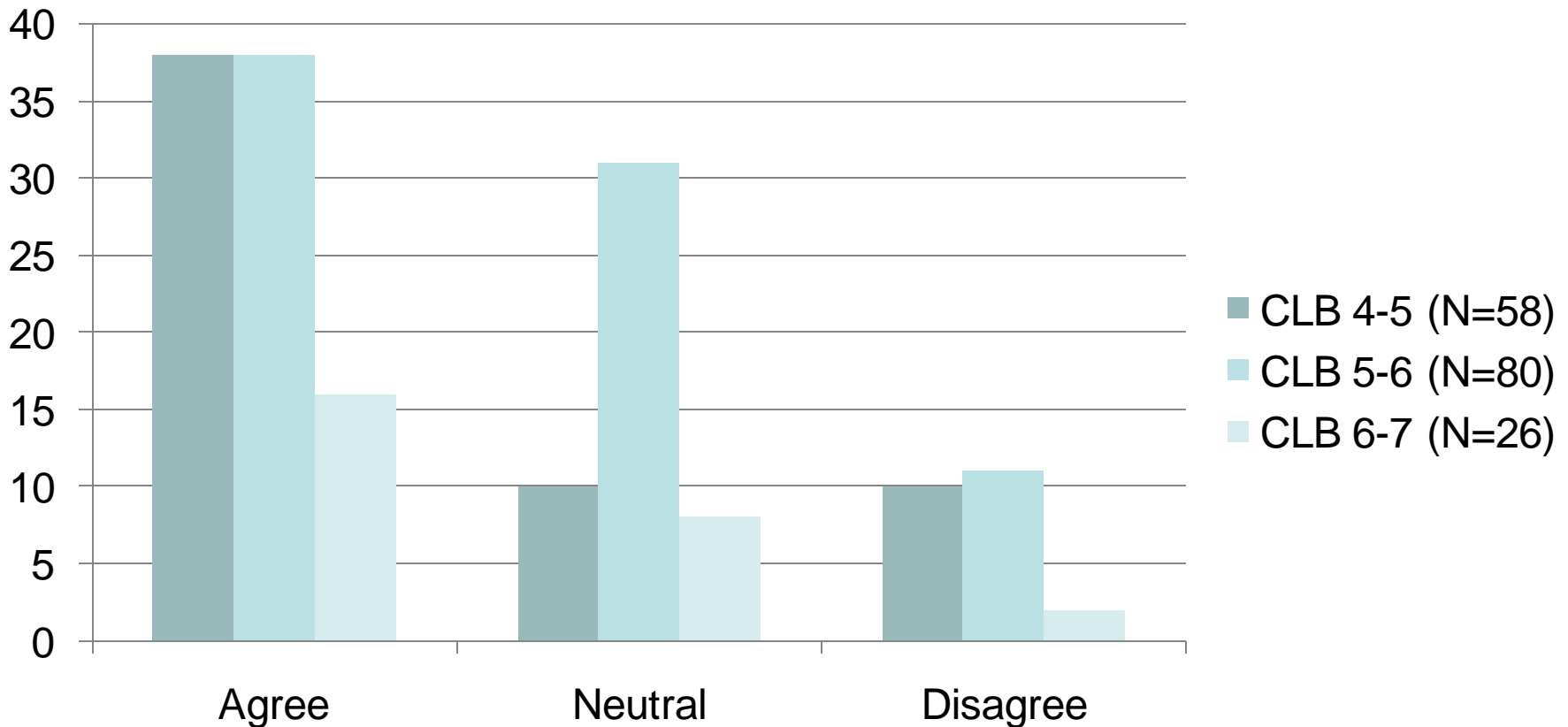
(Bardovi-Harlig & Mahan-Taylor, 2003: 6)



Students have difficulty learning pragmatics on their own without instruction



I have difficulty learning pragmatics on my own without a teacher.



A Complex Challenge: Articulating the Unwritten Rules

“To facilitate pragmatic competence in others, instructors must understand the secret rules of language.”

(Yates, 2004, p.3)



The Videos

- Boardroom (corporate)
- Tailgate/Tailboard (industry)

While you watch:

- In what ways do you find the videos useful or relevant for teaching pragmatics?



Teaching Pragmatics

LANGUAGE STUDY TABLES



Hands-on: Language Study Table 5

- What are some teaching ideas you get from this table?
 - Activities (matching exercises, presentations, role plays, etc.)
 - What themes does it connect to?
 - Learners watch video for HW discuss in class next day
1. Reflect on your own
 2. Share with group



Hands-on: Language Study Table 9

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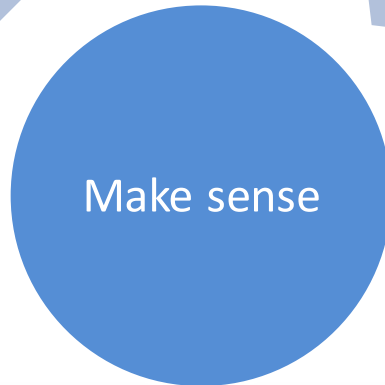
Something's Up!



What happened?
How does each person feel?



What are the judgments/conclusions of each person?



What is this about?
My 'normal' and your 'normal'

What is the shared goal?



Intercultural Competence

SOMETHING'S UP! EXAMPLES



What do you suggest?

- What should we include in a facilitator's guide to make using the videos and web materials more efficient and effective?



References

- Bardovi-Harlig, K., & Mahan-Taylor, R. (2003). *Teaching Pragmatics*. Washington, DC: United States Department of State.
- LoCastro, V. (2003). *An introduction to pragmatics; Social Action for language teachers*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- Yates, L. (2004). The 'secret rules of language': Tackling pragmatics in the classroom. *Prospect*, 19, 3-22.



Thank you/Questions

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