

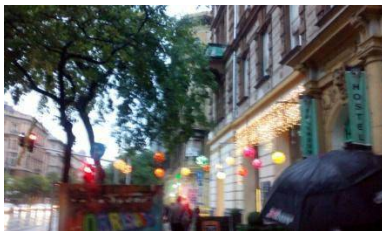
# IATEFL Hungary Conference

## “Looking Forward, Looking Back”

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Budapest is beautiful in autumn.



I was lucky to have been ELTA representative at IATEFL Hungary this year. It was their jubilee conference – 25 years.

The conference lasted for three days. There were several plenary speakers, among which there were Alan Maley, Jill Hadfield, Marjorie Rosenberg, Russell Stannard, Jane Revell, Nádasdy Ádám.

Hungarian linguist Nádasdy Ádám, who is professor at the Department of English Linguistics of Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, gave a wonderful plenary talk on transcription. It reminded me how important it is to invite professors from our universities to give plenary talks at ELTA conferences.

It is always difficult to choose which workshop to attend, from a variety of workshops offered. This year, they had nine workshops going on in the same slot!

The first one I went to see was a workshop given by Agnieszka Luczak – “Classroom management – share the responsibility with your students”. It was a fantastic workshop with lots of practical ideas for classroom management. One of the ideas was to assign roles to students

in the class, such as: assistant for latecomers, mobile phone collector, homework reminder, seating manager, etc.

Another quite inspiring workshop was “Mirror, Mirror: The Impact of Culture on Reflective Practice”, given by Adelina Holmes. She talked about reflective cycles, and participants did a number of tasks and activities that are designed to help teachers as well as students to reflect upon their work (Borton’s, Gibbs and Kolb’s reflective cycles).

Barbara Bujtás gave a wonderful and creative workshop on using Minecraft in teaching and learning English. Those of you who have sons (6-14 years old, I guess) or teach boys of this age, know what I’m talking about.

One of the great things about conferences is meeting new people, of course. I was lucky to have met a fabulous woman from Croatia, who was actually my roommate – Dubravka Blažić. She had a practical and inspiring workshop on techniques for teaching vocabulary. I also met David A. Hill, who spoke with me in Serbian!

I have to say that I was quite happy with the number of people that showed up for my workshop, as well as with the feedback I got from them afterwards. A student helper who was there as well, approached me after the workshop and said “Now I know that I want to be a teacher!” Could I have had a better feedback than that?

The second great thing about conferences is, of course, meeting old friends. And, if they actually live in the city where the conference is held, you can have a personal guide and visit the places only those who live there can take you to. Like Ruinpubs. ☺

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**Branka Dečković** has been teaching English for 11 years. She works in the Medical School in Kragujevac. She loves teaching teenagers and learning from them

\*I certify that I have the right to publish these photos.