The Competency-based Approach

By Dr. F. Boulkroun

The nature of competencies

* They refer **to observable behaviours** that are necessary for the successful completion of **real-world activities**.

* These activities may be related to the field of work and social survival in a new environment.

Definition of Competency

* A **competency** is the **ability** to act using a range of skills and knowledge in various situations.

* A **competency** is firmly linked to a **context-of-use**: students will be prepared to use English effectively in real-life situations by drawing on and manipulating what they have learned in school.

Definition of CBA

* **CBA** is a description of the essential skills, knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours required for the effective performance of **a real world** task or activity.
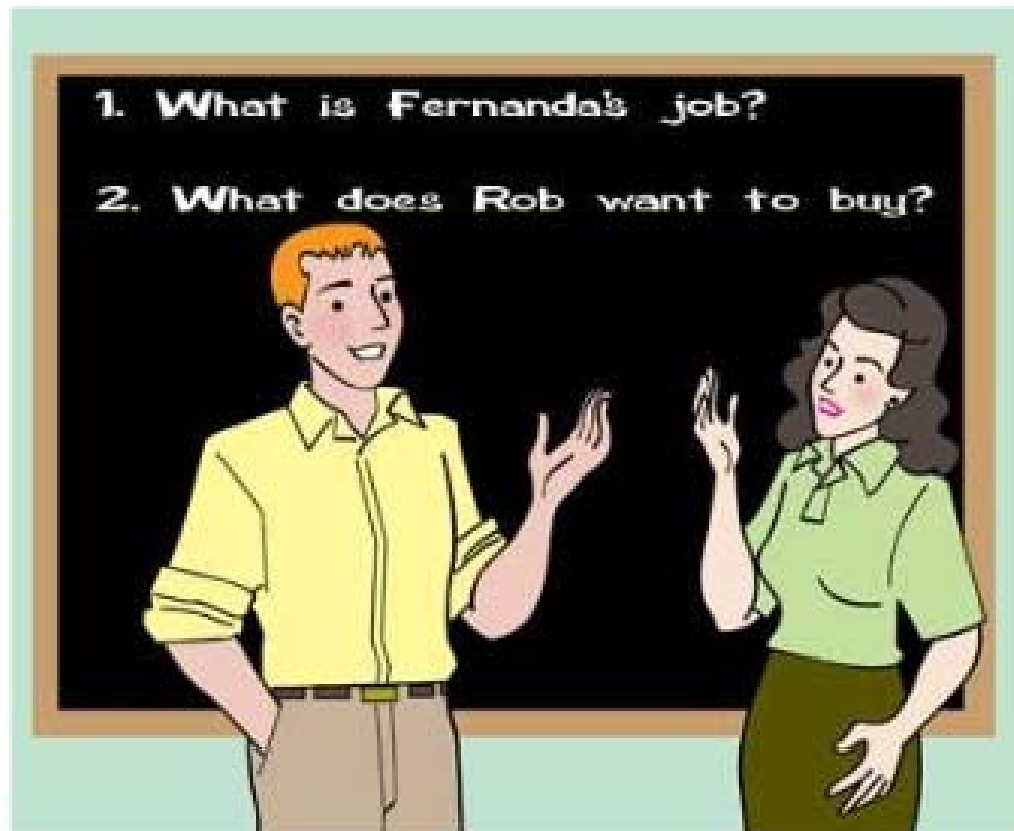
Characteristics:

* Focus is on successful functioning in society.

* It is task- or performance-oriented .

* The instruction is modularized.

* It is student-centered.

The Approach:

Theory of Language Teaching & Learning

- **CBLT is based on a functional and interactional perspective on the nature of language.**

- It seeks to teach language in relation to the **social context** in which it is used.

- Language always occurs as a medium of interaction and communication between people for the achievement of specific goals and purposes.

- It also shares with **behaviorist views of learning** the notion that language form can be inferred from language function; that is, certain life encounters call for certain kinds of language.

- **CBLT is also built around the notion of communicative competence and seeks to develop functional communication skills in learners.**

"CBLT ⟶ is designed not around the notion of subject knowledge but around the notion of competency. *The focus moves from what students know about language to what they can do with it.* The focus on competencies or learning outcomes underpins the curriculum framework and syllabus specification, teaching strategies, assessment and reporting. *Instead of norm-referenced assesment, criterion-based assessment procedures are used in which learners are assessed*

THANK YOU!