

University Tandem

Åbo Akademi University & University of Vaasa

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The co-operation in short

- **Åbo Akademi University** (Swedish-speaking students) & **University of Vaasa** (Finnish-speaking students)
- **Tandem-languages: Finnish – Swedish**
- **Part of a compulsory course in the other national language**
(5 credits)
- Students of
 - education, Social and Political Sciences (ÅAU)
 - economics, humanities (UV)
- **Autumn term 2016: 118 participants**



The co-operation in practice

- **6 sessions**
 - 4 sessions arranged by the teachers
 - 2 sessions arranged by the students
- **during a period of 4 – 6 weeks**
- **collaborative work in small groups of 4 – 6 students**
- **oral and written tasks**



Method & Tasks

◆ Session 1: Getting to know each other

- introduce yourself to the small group (L2)
- ice-breaking – exercise (L1 / L2)
- pair interview (L2)
- assignment: write a text about the person you interviewed (L2)

◆ Session 2: Discussing and expressing one's opinion

- improve the text with the help of your pair
- discuss news articles or topics of immediate interest (chosen by the students) (L2)

◆ Session 3: Practising work-related language, planning a bilingual project

- dialogues related to work situations (L2, pair)
- plan a bilingual project (write an article or produce a video)

Method & Tasks cont.

◆ **Session 4: Applying for a job, presenting the bilingual project**

- job application letter and CV (L2)
- employment vocabulary (L1-L2)
- job interview (L2)
- present the bilingual project to the whole group

◆ **2 sessions arranged by the students:**

- each small group plans and arranges the sessions
- one casual session
- the bilingual project put into practice

◆ **+ extra/additional topics:**

- hobbies and leisure-time activities, housing and living, oral expressions and phrases, words and idioms

Student feedback autumn 2016

◆ Most popular:

- ▶ Ice-breaking exercise
- ▶ Pair interview
- ▶ Writing a text about the pair, receiving help with the writing
- ▶ Applying for a job
- ▶ Dialogues related to work situations (the Swedish ones)

◆ Less popular:

- ▶ Discussions on news articles or topics chosen by the students
- ▶ Dialogues related to work situations (the Finnish ones)

◆ Overall score of the Tandem (maximum 4 points):

ÅAU (Swedish-speaking): 3,4

UV (Finnish-speaking): 3,6

Student feedback cont.

◆ Suggestions for improvement

- more sessions, extended co-operation
- more informal oral tasks, more discussion tasks
- variation in the composition of groups → possibility to work with other/several students

◆ Students' comments:

"Fun, nice, useful, instructive, interesting, meaningful, worthwhile, fruitful..."

"My oral skills / My vocabulary / My grammar / My writing improved"

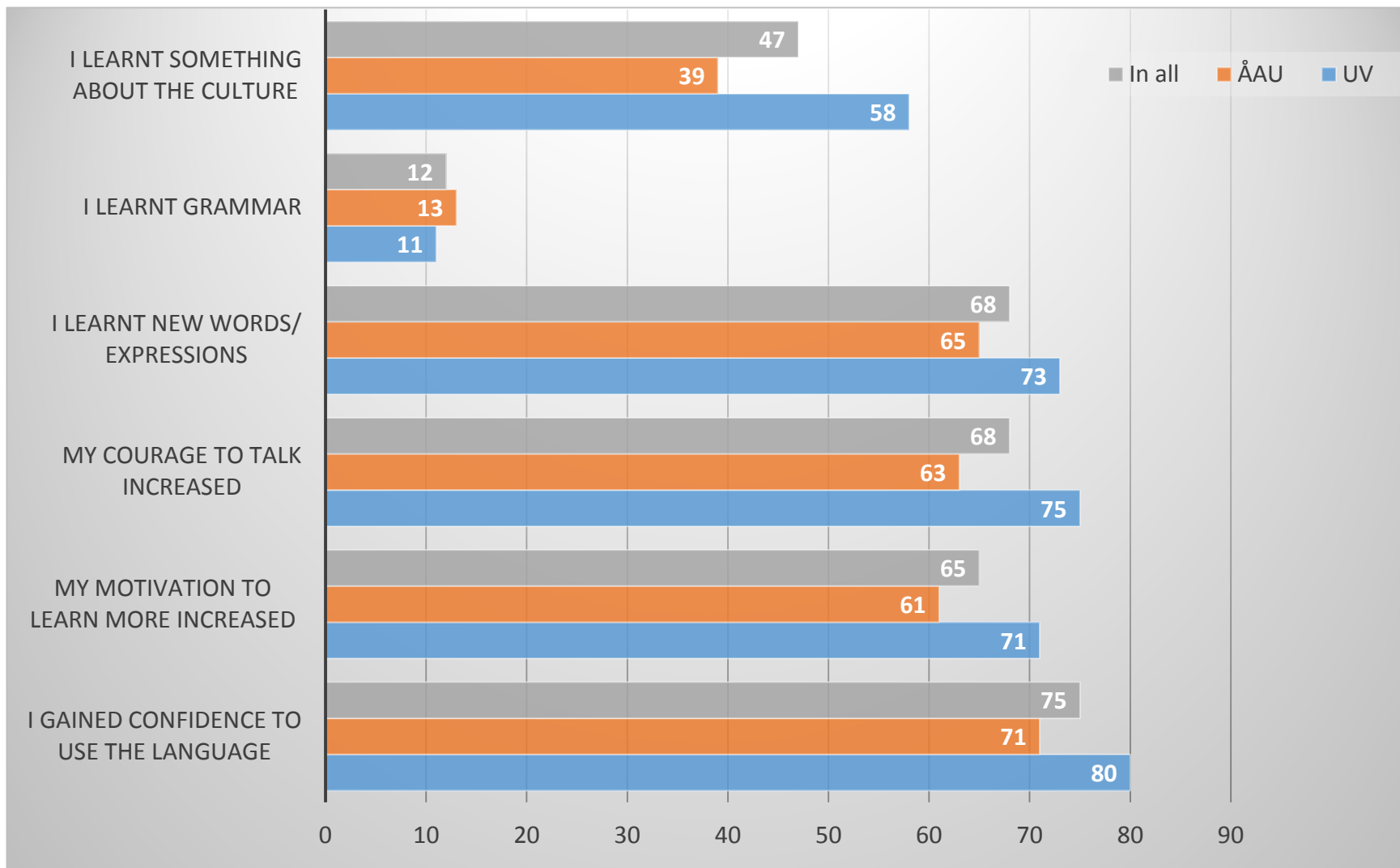
"I learned more about the other culture".

"I gained confidence in using the language"

"My motivation to learn more and to use the language increased"

"My attitude towards the other language group changed/improved"

2011-2012



Thank you!

