Computational Thinking in Language Acquisition

#activity #class9 #class10 #class11 #class12 #language #french

Computational Thinking *applies to language acquisition as language involves decomposition of sounds, words. Pattern recognition can be used to identify and predict language patterns like the organization of parts of speech in a sentence.*

Decomposition

I will use a color chart where each color represent a sound of the language to be learnt. The students work offline first with a "Silent Way" teacher helping them learning the sounds. For instance, here is a sample activity about vowels:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iQ7NVZPtHsI
Then I will give the color chart to the students and ask them to use Scratch MIT to code the chart with the appropriate sounds. They will need to record their sounds and make the chart speak when we click on the colors.

Pattern recognition

I would use Cuisenaire rods to work on grammar structures like in this slide presentation. I will first introduce a sentence with two words (two different color rods) which represent an article and a noun. I will ask the students to use those two rods with many words that fall in this category. Then I add another rod (representing an adjective) and another rod etc etc. Finally when all the rods are known and understood, the students will need to make sentences based on the rod colors I will give to them and create a game using Hopscotch and code the patterns to help beginners learn basic grammatical structures.

How will I know the project is successful?

I will know by observing, giving immediate feedback and differentiating according to the students' levels. The "Silent Way" approach is very similar to computational thinking because of the importance of processing by steps and awareness as well as engaging learners in problem-solving. By exploring, experimenting with the language and collaborating, we can see if the students understand or are lost. If they are lost, they will need to go back to the steps before as they would have missed something.