

Climbing the mountain of sociopragmatic competence in French L2

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In this presentation I will argue that the mountaineering metaphor works well to describe the acquisition of a foreign language. I will focus specifically on those learners who are scaling the linguistic equivalent of the Mont Blanc. Sociopragmatic competence has usually been operationalised as L2 learners' or L2 users' capacity to interpret and perform communicative action like L1 users. I will argue that another important dimension of sociopragmatic competence is how L2 learners or L2 users feel about the language they are learning or using and how they feel about the community of speakers of this language.