

It is with great joy and deep gratitude that I write to report my experience studying spoken Greek at the Accademia Vivarium Novum. Through the generosity of the American Philological Association's 2014 Pedagogy Award, I was able to complete an intensive study of active Attic Greek with Prof. Gerard Guzmán at the Accademia Vivarium Novum.

For several years I have taught Latin using the direct method including an immersion pedagogy. As my program grew, more and more of my Latin students expressed a desire to learn Greek. Since I was not able to fluently speak Ancient Greek, I either did not teach Greek courses or I taught them using the grammar-translation method, which disappointed my students who had expected a more interactive classroom. The opportunity to study spoken Ancient Greek was exactly what I needed.

The course of study at the Vivarium is based on immersion. Prof. Guzmán spoke Greek for more than 90% of the instruction time. In the beginning of the course he used some forms of TPR (Total Physical Response), such as simple commands. Guzmán frequently used pictures and props to communicate meanings of works with which students were not familiar. Certainly the high point of the sessions came after I had achieved greater proficiency in speaking and was comfortable and capable enough to converse about real literature in Greek. We read lengthy selections from Homer, Hesiod, Herodotus, Thucydides and the lyric poets and discussed them in Attic Greek. Prof. Guzmán was wonderful at providing historical background, intertextual references and interesting etymologies all in very good and clear Greek.

I eagerly anticipate integrating my new facility with Greek language pedagogy into my future courses. My knowledge of both the language in general and Attic idioms in particular have increased tremendously. Further, I believe this experience has also augmented and improved techniques that I was using in the Latin classroom. This was a wonderful opportunity for academic and pedagogical growth. I am deeply grateful to the American Philological Association, to the selection committee for the Pedagogy Awards and to Accademia Vivarium Novum.