

A transition to Language Coach

Interview with Natalia Kazik, English language trainer, Poland



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Can you describe your professional career before taking the language coaching certification (LCC)?

I have been an English language trainer for 10 years. My experience encompasses collaborating with individual clients and corporations in Poland as well as training and supporting teachers at the University of Warsaw. My relationships with clients are built on trust and openness, which allows them to reach their goals more effortlessly as they can relax and fully concentrate on learning.

How did you find the course?

Participating in the course was an intense eye-opening adventure which lent a fresh perspective to my outlook on language teaching. It inspired me to perceive it as a deep personal relationship in which the coachee becomes self-motivated and autonomous and my role is to accompany him/her and gently facilitate the entire process.

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Which highlights or insights did you gain from the LCC?

I became more fully aware that it is the coachee who needs to be the key decision maker in the process of working on language. The more conscious of their responsibility the coachees are, the better and faster the results appear. Another important insight was related to the use of the mother tongue in language learning. Since participating in the LCC I have been experimenting with using Polish in my sessions and I immediately noticed that my clients grasp various grammatical structures more quickly if we juxtapose them with their Polish equivalents.

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What was the immediate impact on your way of teaching after taking the course?

Immediately after the course my teaching became more peaceful and more focused. I created room for my clients to take more leadership in the process of learning. I succeeded in doing that by asking powerful questions, ensuring that my clients’ goals are very precise and specific and, of course, by constantly making sure that they are on track.

Were there any impacts on your personal life during or after the course?

I have started using more open-ended questions in my private conversations. I listen more and do not rush to finish others’ sentences. Such simple changes prove to have a powerful effect on my relationships.

How would you describe your professional development after the course?

I have been delving deeper into the field of coaching. I am deepening my knowledge of it through literature as well as through applying it in my work with clients.

Also, I had the opportunity to participate in the Neurolanguage Coaching Conference in Edinburgh in May 2018, which was a unique platform for sharing experiences and learning not only about coaching, but also about topics such as heart coherence and intuition.

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How has the course changed the way you deliver a language course?

The course has provided me with tools that bring in a lot of structure and clarity to the entire learning process. These include the introductory coaching session, which provides a solid foundation for the following sessions, and the monthly check-in sessions, which let us evaluate whether we have achieved our goals.

How would you describe the impact you are now having as a language coach on your learners?

My clients take language learning into their own hands. They are more autonomous, independent and proactive.

Is there any additional information that you would like to add?

I am very grateful to Rachel Paling for sharing her knowledge and for creating a thriving community of people who want to develop and grow. Thank you, Rachel!

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