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REVIEW ARTICLE

Towards evidence-based practices in voice pedagogy

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KEYWORDS

Evidence-based knowledge; Problem-solving; Reflective voice practitioners; Student-centred teaching; Voice pedagogy Abstract Voice pedagogy was initially based on an orally transmitted master-apprentice teaching-learning model, applying observational type of learning centred in the final artistic product. Since then, this model has been continuously replaced. Nowadays, the social organization of work in globalized economies has called for the need of rethinking education so that future generations can meet the demands of lifelong learners, who are skilful at using systems of information, who are flexible and adapt to the lack of stability at work, and who are able to make their own career opportunities. How can this be applied to voice pedagogy? This work aims at finding answers to these questions, further contributing to the discussion raised at the voice pedagogy round table of the 10th Pan-European Voice Conference, "Vocal Pedagogy – What do we need?". The rationale for reflective practices in voice education and for enhancing metacognitive skills in student's using evidence-based guided awareness is discussed. The provision of meaningful feedback and the use of a holistic approach to voice teaching are presented as means to meet individual needs of different types of learners. Problem-solving and student-centred teaching-learning models are proposed as key elements in developing reflective voice practitioners.

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PALABRAS CLAVE

Aprendizaje basado en la evidencia; Resolución de problemas; Profesionales de la voz reflexivos;

Prácticas vocales basadas en la evidencia

Resumen Tradicionalmente la pedagogía de la voz se ha basado en un modelo de enseñanzaaprendizaje a partir de dominar la práctica transmitida oralmente, en la que se aplicaba un tipo de aprendizaje observacional centrado en el producto artístico final. Este modelo se ha ido sustituyendo constantemente con el tiempo. Actualmente, la organización social del trabajo en las economías globalizadas ha visto la necesidad de replantear la educación de forma que las generaciones futuras pueden responder a las necesidades de alumnos que aprenden de por vida, que destacan en el uso de habilidades de sistemas de información, que son flexibles y

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Modelos de enseñanza centrados; en el estudiante; Pedagogía vocal se adaptan a la falta de estabilidad en el trabajo, y que son capaces de manejar sus propias oportunidades de emprendimiento. ¿Cómo se puede aplicar todo esto a la pedagogía vocal? Este trabajo tiene como objetivo la búsqueda de respuestas a estas cuestiones, además de contribuir a la discusión que se generó en la 10th Pan European Voice Conference, «Pedagogía Vocal. ¿Qué necesitamos?». Se expone la lógica de usar prácticas reflexivas en la educación vocal y que realcen las habilidades metacognitivas del estudiante, al utilizar el conocimiento basado en la evidencia. La provisión de feedback significativo y el uso de un enfoque holístico en la enseñanza de la voz se presentan como los medios necesarios para responder a las necesidades individuales de los distintos aprendices. Los modelos de enseñanza basados en la resolución de problemas y en el aprendizaje centrado en el alumno se proponen como elementos clave a la hora de desarrollar profesionales de la voz conscientes, que son los que mejor cumplen con las demandas de conocimiento de las sociedades del siglo xxI.

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Introduction

The current social organization of work in globalized economies, with rapid advances in information technology, calls for a revision in career development models and in teaching-learning methods (Savickas et al., 2009). Education is expected to fulfil the requirements of the next generation of workers, developing critical reflective abilities. These are essential in a global and highly competitive working environment, with frequent and increasingly more difficult job transitions (Ilyenkov, 2007). Reflective practitioners are lifelong learners with abilities to handle sophisticated technologies, are flexible in making their own career opportunities and know strategies to cope with instability for maintenance of employability (Savickas et al., 2009). Several studies have suggested that a studentcentred learning approach is more beneficial to the student who aims at meeting these requirements, than the learnercentred teaching one (Wright, 2011). In the first case, teaching activities are adjusted aiming at the enhancement of student's learning (Wright, 2011). In addition, this type of approach aims at finding possible solutions to questions such as how can education best fulfil the demands of 21st century knowledge socieities (Savickas et al., 2009), and how it can contribute to the development of creators (rather than imitators)?

These needs apply to all fields of education; voice pedagogy is not an exception. For example, despite the considerably amount of singers who invest years in education, only few achieve a professional sustainable self-made career (Gembris & Langner, 2005). This question was also brought into discussion by the panel of singing teachers at the 10th Pan-European Voice Conference (PEVOC) in Prague (Gill & Herbst, 2016). Discussions around "Vocal Pedagogy -What do we need?" originated three possible intertwined areas of responsibility in current voice education: voice building, coaching and rehabilitation. Voice builders are teachers that understand the physiological, acoustical and psychological aspects of voice function. This knowledge is required to transform the primary function of the vocal apparatus (i.e. airway protection) to a function of a musical instrument. Vocal coaches were defined as those who guide the students into the process of using their musical instrument to convey artistic meaning. Singing voice specialists were classified as those who assist students who have suffered a voice injury and who guide them back to the process of music making. Voice builders were presented as having greater overlap with the other two types of teachers (Gill & Herbst, 2016); the need for having teachers specialized in these three different areas of knowledge was significantly emphasized (Gill & Herbst, 2016).

The present work aims at further contributing to this discussion, finding other possible suggestions and encompassing teaching approaches that nurture the required demands of 21st century voice education.

The evolution of teaching models in singing education

The teaching of singing emerged to assist solo singers in the performance of the new monody and opera. Orally transmitted knowledge was the main available form of teaching and learning, heavily based on imitation, imagery and auditory perception (Callaghan, 2000). Thus, at those times, singing students who would like to become professional solo singers would look for a teacher who was an excellent performer (Callaghan, 1998). Generally speaking, nowadays music students look for teachers who have not only musical competences, but who also have other attributes, such as: planning, organizational, pedagogical and communicating skills; the capacity of mediating excellent learning environments; the ability to promote activities within and outside the educational institution; and encouraging critical thinking and evaluation skills in their students (Lennon & Reed, 2012). In particular, singing students also look for attributes that include: well-informed guidance to modify neuromuscular behaviours; observational and interpretational skills to understand particular elements involved in singing (functional, musical and expressive); the use of a variety of up-to-date pedagogical tools; and aptitude to share and discuss information (Callaghan, 1998). These qualities are not a surprise, particularly because the pedagogical discourse has shifted from the teacher to the student and from the

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