



INSTITUTO POLITÉCNICO DE BRAGANÇA  
Escola Superior de Educação

*From one language to another*

*De un idioma a otro*

*D'une langue à l'autre*

*De uma língua a outra*

*A von eine Sprache in die andere*

**I INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

# **OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES: FROM ONE LANGUAGE TO ANOTHER**

**December 3 - 5 2015**

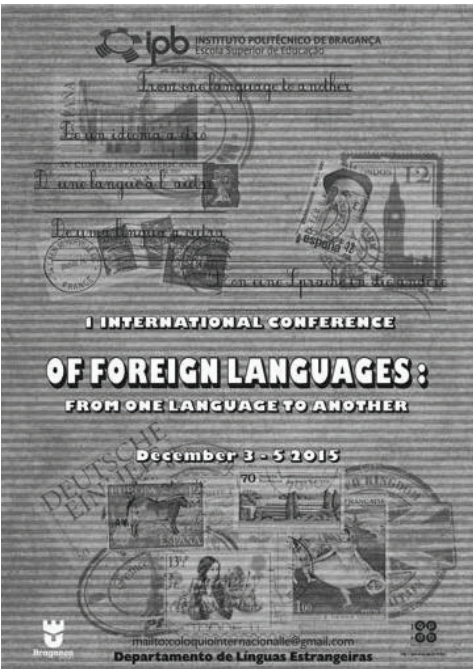


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Livro de Resumos

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— Workshop —

**Concept questions: an effective way of checking understanding of  
meaning**

*The teaching of foreign languages in basic and secondary schools*

When teaching English as a foreign language it is quite recurrent to ask the following question: 'Do you understand?' in order to get feedback on grammar issues or vocabulary comprehension, for example.

The most common answer to this question is, most of the times, 'yes' which is obviously quite uninformative. Normally, students answer 'yes' because they don't want to look unwise or because they think they understand.

However, this very traditional technique is not effective when it comes to understanding the meaning of language items students are learning. We believe concept questions do the trick here. Albeit concept questions are not new, they are still unknown to many teachers.

Therefore, this workshop's main aim is to introduce concept questions as the most effective method of checking understanding of vocabulary items and of more complicated language or grammatical structures. Even though they also require 'yes' or 'no' answers, the key point is to avoid the 'do you understand?' question.

Bionote

Elisabete Mendes Silva is an Assistant Professor at the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança where she teaches English Language and Culture. She also has a wide experience in regards to teaching Portuguese as a Foreign Language to students with different nationalities. Currently, she is the Head of the Department of Foreign Languages. In her M.A. studies she specialized in Culture Studies and wrote her thesis on George Orwell's political Essays. She holds a PhD on Isaiah Berlin's political thought. She is a researcher at ULICES – University of Lisbon Centre for English Studies.