**When education is changing, what remains the same?**

Ray Clifford

Senior advisor to NATO BILC

ABSTRACT

Rapid changes in technology and communication options have brought an expanded range of language learning options. Yet, in the midst of those changes, there are fundamental realities that remain unchanged. Key among those realities are:

* The complexities of language.
* The nature of learning.
* The challenges of language learning.

This presentation reviews some seminal research findings that inform the science of language teaching and learning. Those initial research studies all found that to be successful, language learners must devote a significant amount of time to the learning task.

And recent research has determined that just spending more time studying doesn’t necessarily lead to higher levels of success. While spending time studying is a necessity, it is also important to spend that time productively engaged in “deliberate practice.” The 10 characteristics of deliberate practice reinforce the importance of including a professional teacher in the learning process.