

From EPIC Challenges and Opportunities to Communities of Practice

Linda Weinberg

Braude College of Engineering

H-INET Study Day

13th August 2019

Open University of Israel, Ra'anana



ESU
ENGLISH
STUDIES
UNIT

A little history:

2005: meeting at the Malag

2013: Laufer recommendations

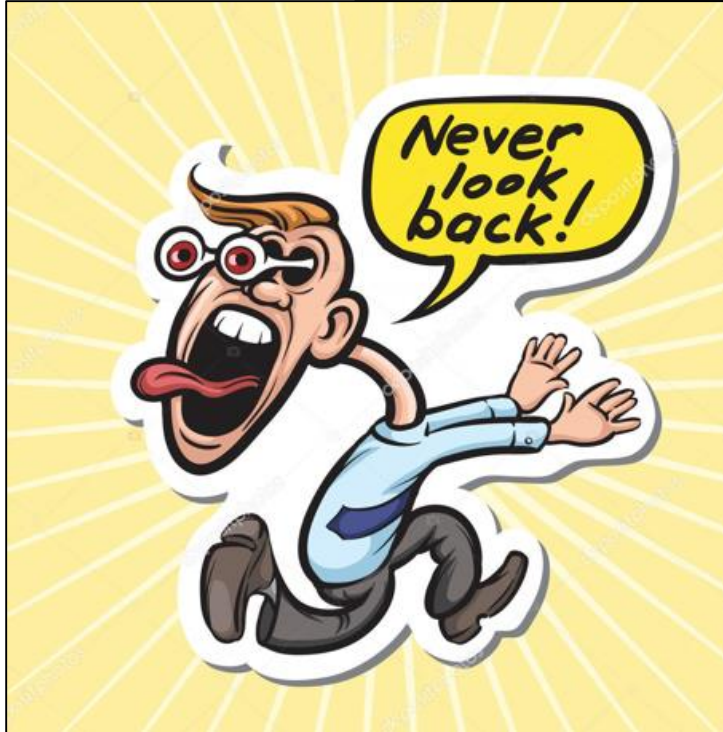
2014: launch of ECOSTAR project

2016: online courses

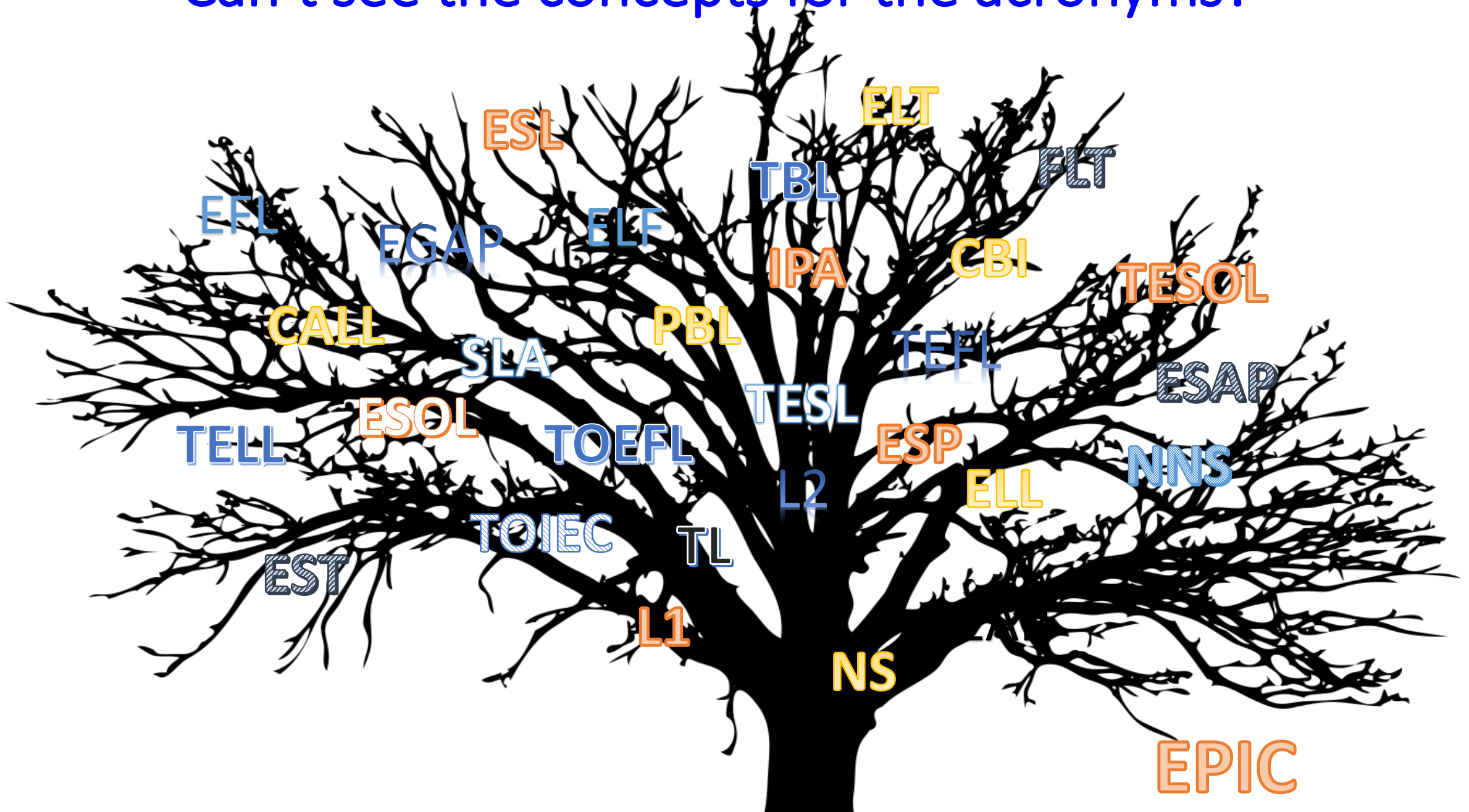
2017: CEFR-Aligned Framework for English in Higher Education in Israel

2017: QA audit of EAP departments

2019: publication of International Committee's recommendations

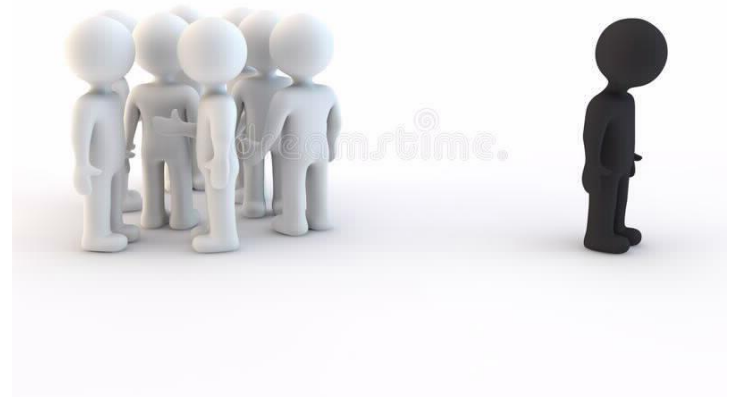
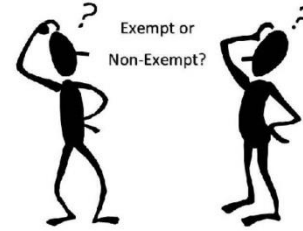


Can't see the concepts for the acronyms?



PTOR....

- **Exemption:** free from obligation; not having to obey a rule;
- **Exempt:** relieved; exonerated; relieved
- **Local context:** not needed; unnecessary; excluded



EPIC – what the...?

Epic (n.):

heroic poem, long poem, long story; saga, legend, romance, lay, history, chronicle, myth, fable, folk tale, folk story.

Epic (adj.):

heroic, long, grand, monumental, vast, Homeric, Miltonian; lofty, grandiloquent, high-flown, high-sounding, extravagant, bombastic

Epic (Israel 2019):

English for Professional and International Communication



What does it mean?

- **Professional:** field related / specific as opposed to general EFL (does **not** exclude academic language); allows for flexibility and for integration of skills beyond reading
- **International:** real world requirements, authenticity, relevance, for study/work
- **Communication:** productive **as well as** receptive language skills



EPIC Challenges

HOW DO WE....?



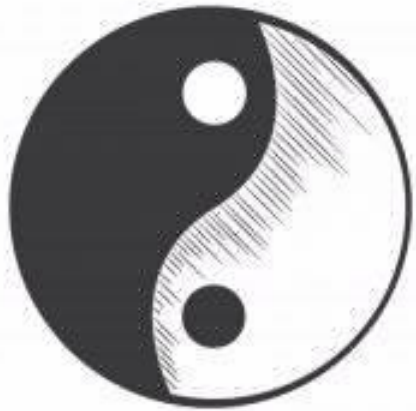
- *implement* the CEFR can-dos?
- *integrate* 4 skills?
- *assess* speaking and writing and listening?
- *adapt* from semester to yearly courses?

WHAT IF....?

- **students** aim for lower psych scores to get an 'easy ride'? (e.g. deliberate dumbing down of language level.)
- **the institution** reduces the level of English required and reduces the number of courses required?
- **the Malag** introduces more stand-alone online courses?



EPIC Opportunities

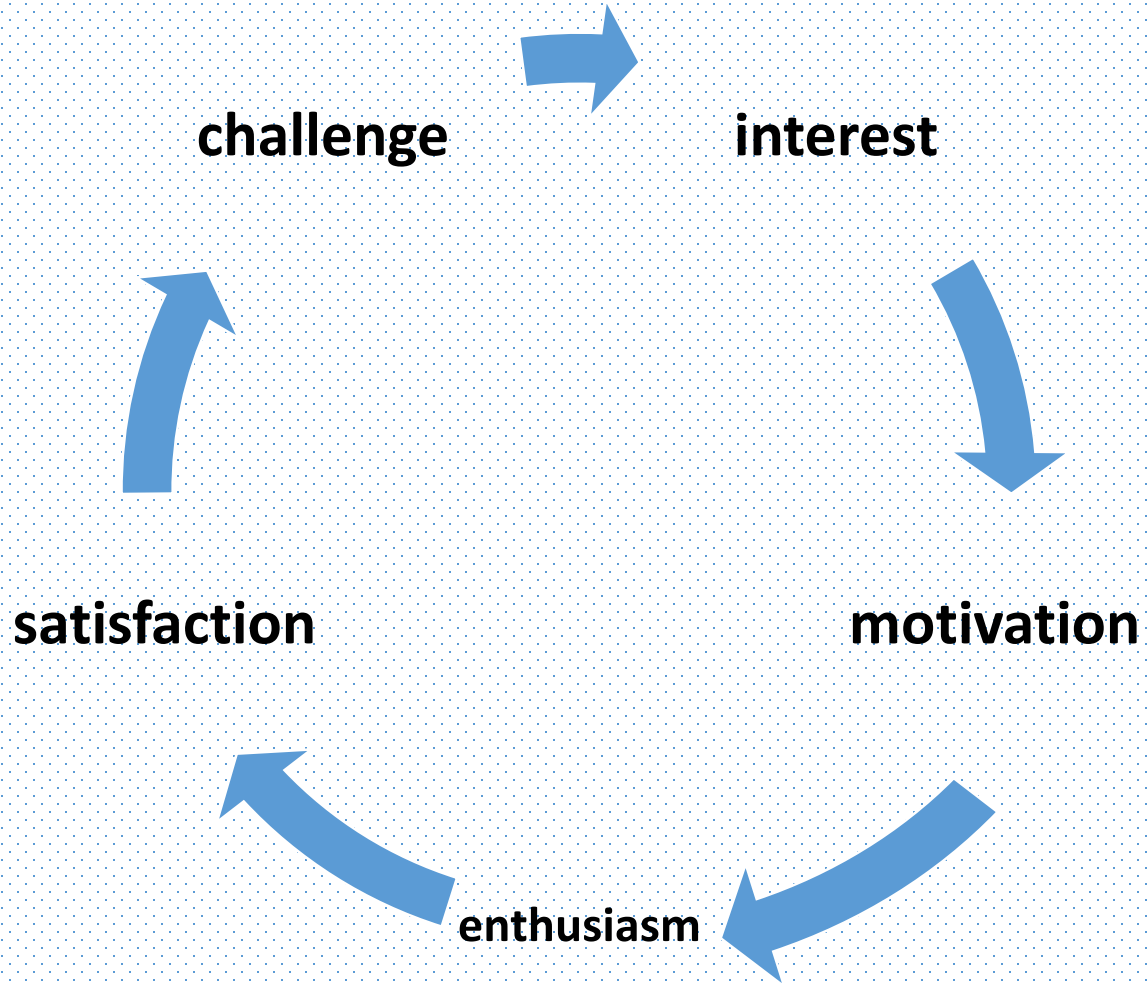


For students:

- **Authentic** study in social situations
- **Real world** applications
- **Relevance** to studies and to work
- **Enhanced motivation** enabling greater success

More EPIC Opportunities

For teachers:



Towards Communities of Practice



...and not just ...



Come on, come on, let's work together....

- Use this address: <https://h-inet.org/cop/>

OR

- This QR and sign up now



Scan me



linda@braude.ac.il

Please join H-INET
www.h-inet.org



H-INET

Higher Education in Israel Network of English Teachers

H-INET is the umbrella
association for all English
(EFL/EAP) teachers in Higher
Education in Israel

JOIN NOW!

