

**The Significance of Group Work in a FAL Classroom:  
Language Learning as a Social Practice in Two High Schools  
in Eastern Cape**

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**KEYWORDS** Second Language Acquisition. Competence. Critical Realism. Social Practice. Target Language

**ABSTRACT** The national curriculum statement strongly embraces the idea of group. It stipulates that the culture of communication amongst learners must be promoted and the teacher must cooperate with the learners. In line with Archer's *Being Human*, it can be viewed that group work can pay off at individuals and societal levels. This paper therefore strives for the betterment of teaching and learning. Group work seems to replace the traditional way of teaching with the teacher at the helm. It can as such create powerful learning experiences for learners which range from understanding the content to developing problem solving capabilities, communicative skills and team building. It is also a teaching strategy whose lessons go far beyond the classroom. Methodologically, the study used interviews and focus group. The paper makes use of Critical realism as its analytical framework where the themes for analysis are generated by the data.