Being communicatively competent.

In my future English classroom, I will expect the only language to be spoken to be English, and that from day one. General messages, of course, will be delivered in Danish, but all that is related to the subject of English will be spoken in English so that the students will adapt to speaking English themselves in class as soon as possible.

But what does being communicative competent actually mean? Well it consists of four competences brought together as communicative competence. First of we have the **linguistic** competence, it is all about grammar here, such as vocabulary, sentencing, spelling, pronunciation and punctuating. So basically, it is how you create sentences and either hear yourself that they sound wrong or will be informed and taught how to do it in the future. An example could be a boy and his mother having a walk. “Mom, I see cat!”, and the mother goes “No dear, you *can* see *a* cat.”. “Ohhh, mom I can see a cat!”.

**Sociolinguistics** is the second one and focuses on the attire with which you speak. You can not go to a job interview and speak the same way you do with a friend you have known your entire life. So, in more prober English it is about being able to adapt your language to different settings, a formal dinner, a sports event, a bar, and so on. As a student you will most likely discover you have a lot more than just one voice when you go through all the different settings you are in during a day.

That takes us to the **discourse** competence, which is all about creating the language in an understandable and meaningful way. This is of great importance, as this will very much decide whether people will be able to understand what you are trying to get across to them. A bigger vocabulary, which will come naturally by speaking English and listening to it, is a great way to become a great speaker/writer in English.

Lastly is the **strategic** competence, which is an English speaker’s ability to making what is being said understood. If they do not know a certain word, the more strategic competent you are, the better you are at describing what you mean without the use of the actual word, and hopefully someone can give you the word you were looking for, so that in the future you will be more strategic competent by having learned what you were not aware of prior to this.

These four components are what creates the communicatively competent student. As a student you may not master all four, but perhaps two of them, but in that case, you are on the right track.

Now back to my classroom, I hope that speaking English will create a great understanding of the sociolinguistics I want in my classroom, and since it is just another language, the students most likely already have a different sociolinguistic during recess that they use in their mother tongue, so hopefully some of them will speak English at that time to find their voice in this setting. But mainly, always speaking English in class will help the children master it, whether they decide to speak from the very first minute of class or if they would rather wait a few days/weeks before daring to participate and speak out in class, if necessary.

While speaking a major weight will be but in the grammar, this is due to how I was taught English, but also because if you want to be interacting with the world later on in life, which I presume most of my students will have to at some point in their life, being great at the linguistic part of English will make their discourse competence stronger, and less communication is needed if they are able to express what they mean in a correct way.

With that being said, I think my focus on the strategic competence will be slightly less than on the other focus areas, this is due to me belief that this will automatically be part of the student’s competences be practicing the other traits.

But I am certain that if you manage to teach the pupils in a class like above, you will have a great group of students who are communicatively by the time they will be ready for the finals in 9th grade. In real life many scenarios not accounted for in this paper will occur, but overall in a class, if you speak English, have a great grammar course to go over with the students and will let pupils speak when they are ready, you are off to a great start.