

**Prof. Dr. Birsen TTNİŐ**

## **Raising the Bar: Equity, Inclusion, and Quality in Language Teaching and Development**

### **Abstract**

In increasingly diverse English language classrooms, the notion of “quality” must evolve beyond traditional benchmarks to include equity, inclusion, and learner empowerment. This presentation “*Raising the Bar: Equity, Inclusion, and Quality in Language Teaching and Development*” invites English language educators to reflect on what quality really means today, and who it serves. What does it mean to raise the bar without leaving learners behind? How can teachers maintain high standards while ensuring that all students—regardless of language background, identity, or ability—have equitable opportunities to succeed? How can professional growth support more inclusive, culturally responsive classroom practices?

This session explores these questions by reimagining quality as a dynamic intersection of academic excellence, inclusive pedagogy, and teacher development. Participants will examine key practices such as differentiated instruction, accessible assessment, learner agency, and reflective teaching. The session will also highlight the role of professional development in equipping teachers to recognize bias, build inclusive learning communities, and navigate the complex demands of multilingual, multicultural classrooms. Drawing on current research, classroom case studies, and teacher voices, this presentation aims to offer both critical insights and practical tools. Ultimately, it challenges us to redefine “raising the bar” not as raising a single standard, but as widening the path—so that all learners can reach their full potential.

### **Biodata**

Birsen TtniŐ is a professor currently teaching at Istanbul Kultur University. She has received her PhD from University of Sussex, UK. She has worked at several universities in Turkey holding positions as English instructor, senior lecturer and administrator. She has conducted research on a variety of topics like; Computer Assisted Language Learning, Language Learning Styles and Strategies, Teacher Education and Teacher Learning. Her recent interest lies on Positive Psychology and teacher well-being. She has written articles and books on different issues related to TEFL. She has been awarded Istanbul Kultur University Scientific Award – BILSAP, 2021, 2022 and 2023. She contributed to the books “Learning Strategy Instruction in the Language Classroom” by Multilingual Matters and “Lessons from Good Language Teachers” by Cambridge University Press. “Applied Linguistics in ELT Classroom” Anı Yayıncılık, “New Approaches in ELT” EĐiten Kitapçılık (2022), Theory and Practice of Teaching English to Young Learners I-II. She has been invited as a keynote speaker to international conferences like NTELT, ICRE, LIF, BETA-IATEFL, ALLT and GLOBELT. She has also been invited to national TV channels (Haberturk, CNN Turk) for interviews on foreign language learning.

Prof. TtniŐ has taken the role as the coordinator of Teacher Training and Education Committee (TTEd SIG) of IATEFL for several years. She holds membership for IATEFL, TESOL and ISATT.

