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**Cummins Quadrant and TEA**

 Professor J. Cummins is a leader in bilingual education. He developed “Cummins Quadrants” to explain four different forms of language. Prof. Cummins’ four types of language, as defined in his Quadrants model are: context embedded vs. context reduced and cognitively demanding vs. cognitively undemanding. The word “versus” is used here to represent the opposing roles of each title. Language, in our case English, takes on many uses. At times it can be very formal and academic and other times it may be loose, informal and full of colloquiums and slang. Based on the message the speaker is trying to convey, the wording changes to relay a subtle meaning. The word choice used in a conversation can shift and change through the course of the conversation. This is why Cummins chose to represent these types of language on a quadrant rather than 4 discrete headings. On the quadrant, the meaning and intent of the conversation may be plotted along a gradient. The message may not be completely cognitively demanding, but it may be more demanding than not.

 After browsing around the TEA website, I found the “Testing & Accountability” section that showcases each campus/district/region’s test scores and expenditures. For example, I learned that White Oak has the lowest Superintendent pay than any of the schools in Gregg County, making half the pay of Pine Tree or Longview (I had no idea the average Superintendant made over $100,000). The reports I viewed also showed per-student expenditures. (Almost every school in the area spends about the same per-pupil, and they are all within a small percentage of the state average.) I also like the features that allow you to see where that particular district rates among the other 1,000+ districts in the state. Also found on the site are handy state-wide reports of various information. Most notably are the “Pocket Editions” of test performance. There really is a lot of data available on the TEA website; I hope they continue to expand upon it as the federal government is doing with data.gov.