Language Fishbowl

1. Instructor writes the numbers 1 through 8 (divide number of students by 3), three times on a blank sheet of paper.
2. Then the instructor cuts out the numbers, folds them up, and puts them in a bag for students to draw.
3. Students put their desks in a large circle, with 3 desks in the center of the large circle.
4. Each student draws a number that corresponds to a question that will be displayed on a PowerPoint slide.
5. Three volunteers of the “one” group sit in the desks in the middle. They begin a discussion about the question, “Is language shaped by culture, or is culture shaped by language?”
6. This question will be discussed for three minutes, and then the instructor will say, “Switch!”
7. Three students who drew a number 1 will replace the students in the middle and will continue the discussion.
8. Repeat steps 5–7 and continue with question 2, “Is our everyday language inclusive or do we follow more exclusive language?” And question 3, “Do the words you use reflect your perspective on how you see the world?”
9. After all students have had the opportunity to sit in the inter circle, the class will debrief.