Así se dice®

A Cross-Language Literacy Squared® Strategy

Así se dice ("that's how to say it") is a cross-language literacy strategy within the Literacy Squared® framework that supports biliteracy development by explicitly teaching students how meaning is expressed and adapted across languages. Traditionally modeled through Spanish and English, the strategy is adaptable to other bilingual program languages and develops students' metalanguage through purposeful analysis of similarities, differences, and cultural nuances across languages.

Aligned with the California ELA/ELD Framework, *Así se dice* integrates meaningful interaction, collaborative academic discourse, and explicit attention to how language works while leveraging students' full linguistic repertoires as instructional assets.

Why Así se dice Matters
A defining feature of Así se dice is its emphasis on conceptual translation rather than word-for-word equivalence, requiring students to consider intent, audience, context, and cultural meaning when communicating across languages.

Así se dice Procedure

Pairs or Small Groups **Construct a Translation**	• The teacher selects or creates a short, conceptually rich text (e.g., an idiom, poem, or brief excerpt from a focal text). • Students work in pairs or small groups to construct and discuss translations, determining whether a literal or conceptual translation is more appropriate.
Whole Group **Share and Justify**	• Groups share, explain, and justify their translations during whole-group discussion. • The teacher facilitates explicit discussion of language choices, cultural nuance, and cross-language similarities and differences.
Whole Group **Reflect & Refine**	• The teacher and students collaboratively create a final whole-group version based on discussion, reflection, and refinement of meaning across languages.

Instructional Goal
Así se dice engages students in rich conversations about language use, word choice, and meaning, helping them understand the complexities and subtleties of communicating across languages.

For additional information on the Así se dice strategy, see Chapter 5 of *Biliteracy From the Start: Literacy Squared in Action* (Escamilla et al., 2014)