

JACET News

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FOREWORD

Student-centered Reading

Chubu Chapter President KURAHASHI, Yoko

It is hard work to select one textbook for reading among thousands of books. Recently some studies have focused on the student-centered methodology of teaching English. University students' intelligence, level of English, interests and purpose of learning should be considered when selecting a textbook.

Generally speaking, even if the students' English level is not high, their intelligence is different from that of younger students. The textbooks, which are suitable for the students' English level and intelligence, have to be selected. However, it may be difficult to find the right one if it is teacher-centered. Selection of textbooks should be shifted to student-centered reading.

Students' intelligence is the first to be considered. What is interesting to them? The key words are "head" and "heart". Head includes some knowledge, wisdom, intelligence etc. Heart includes feelings, love, passion etc. A textbook that stimulates the head or heart must be interesting to them. It is the textbook written in easy English for students to understand which stimulates the head or heart, or both, that we would like.

What book is a stimulus for the head? A textbook which gives some knowledge they do not know and brings them to intellectual activity is stimulating and interesting to them. The topic that complements their major may motivate them to learn through English. Their reading activity should be "authentic." This idea may lead to English for a specific purpose. They feel they are learning the "contents" rather than English. Special terms, if they are need, should be taught. Cooperation and communication with teachers whose majors are different from each other may be required.

It is easier to find a textbook that stimulates the heart or impresses students. There are so many English literary works. We can choose from children's books to novels, detective stories and even poetry. I am not discussing the old method of teaching English literature in an English class which has developed a bad reputation. Some literary works, which contain universal human emotions and pursue the truth, are suitable to be one of the textbooks that stimulate the heart. Some newspapers may stimulate their heart. They can enjoy and be satisfied with the contents of the textbook. Satisfaction leads them to be well motivated to read books in English.

There are students with different levels of English in university. An English placement test is one of the best methods to make a group according to their English level. If they have to use a textbook that is not suitable for their level, it is a pity for both students and teachers. If they can choose one textbook among ones decided by teachers, it would be effective to motivate them to learn it.

There is an argument whether English should be compulsory or not. Some say that those who would like to learn English should learn it, and others say that all students should learn it. The reasons of the former are that those who will have little chance to use English in their life need not learn it, and if there are only well motivated students in a class, the class management will be smoother. The reasons of the latter are that English is necessary in the international world and if they do not learn it, they will be at a disadvantage in society. When we have this argument, we should consider the position of students again. I asked about 300 students at my university in the past and found that more than 90 % of the students wanted to use English if they could, and thought English was necessary in the future. However, about 25 to 30 % of them answered they did not like English. It means that if they can use English, they will change their minds.

It is probable that they gave up learning English when in the 3rd year of middle school or 1st year of high school. They have their own reasons. They could not learn by heart English words. English grammar is difficult for them to understand. One of the solutions is to increase the number of English classes in middle and high school. It is most important that both students and teachers do not give up learning or teaching English. That is the time to study languages.

News from the JACET Office

Secretary General KIMURA, Matsuo

First of all, I would like to extend a special word of thanks to those who were involved in preparing and conducting the 44th Annual Convention of JACET held at Tamagawa University in Machida. I believe that this success will help us in taking the next step regarding the future of English language teaching and learning, and establishing it as an academia in Japan. Now, in the Future Plans Committee of JACET, the members of the committee are seriously discussing the possibility of a shift from the present voluntary JACET corporation to a future public JACET

corporation and restructuring of the JACET Secretariat in collaboration with some external professionals in the field. The results of the discussions will be announced in the spring of 2006.

Chapter News

< Hokkaido Chapter Report>

Annual Chapter Convention

On July 2, the 2005 Hokkaido Chapter convention was held at Hokusei Gakuen University. In the general meeting, the financial report for the 2004 fiscal year, the 2005 schedule and the 2005 budget were approved. Following the general meeting were research presentations: "E-learning!: English education in the IT era" by Toshiyuki Sakabe (Dohto Univ.); "Flexible Learning: A report on two universities in Australia" by Hironori Ishizuka (Hokkaido Tokai Univ.); "Reading instruction designed to increase input and introduce extensive reading" by Hiroya Tanaka (Sapporo Nanryo Senior High School); "The oral reading skills of Japanese ESL learners" by Megumi Yamada (Hokkaido Pharmaceutical Univ.). After the presentations, Shoichi Ishikawa (JACET director, Jissen Women's College) gave a lecture entitled, "Outsourcing English testing: From a perspective of university English education." After the lecture, a symposium entitled, "Grading based on standardized tests: Reports from the scene" was held. The chairperson was Midori Yoshida (Tenshi Univ.); the panelists were Yasushi Kawai (Hokkaido Univ.), Hiroshi Tsukagoshi (Health Sciences Univ. of Hokkaido), Akira Nakaya (Hokusei Gakuen Univ.), Yoshiki Yokoyama (Hokkaido Univ. of Education Iwamizawa).

Lecture Meetings

On June 18, the first lecture meeting for 2005 was held at Hokkai Gakuen Univ. Keiko Hayasaka (Hokusei Gakuen Univ.) gave a lecture entitled, "Graduate Schools in UK: A case study of the School of English Studies at the University of Nottingham."

Two additional meetings are scheduled for this fall. On October 29, the ESP Hokkaido SIG will have their first open meeting. The meeting will be chaired by Masashi Takemura (Hakodate National College of Technology) and the venue is the Dohto Univ. Sapporo Research Center. Lectures include the "ESP Hokkaido 2005 research project: A study on the use and the need of English in Hokkaido business corporations" by Hisashi Naito (Asahikawa Medical College); "Research methods for need analysis: Who, what and how?" by Ken Urano (Hokkai Gakuen Univ.); "An investigation on the need of English among the Department of Agriculture graduates at the Hokkaido Institute of Technology (a mid-term report) by Hiroko Miura (Hokkaido Institute of Technology); and "An internet survey on the use and need of English" by adults in Hokkaido (a

mid-term report) by Megumi Yamada (Hokkaido Pharmaceutical Univ.).

On November 7, the JACET Hokkaido second lecture meeting will be held at Hokkaido Univ. This is a joint event with the OUP English seminar: Grammar and dictionaries, in which lectures will be given by Henry Widdowson (Univ. of London) and Michael Swan (a writer who specializes in English language teaching and reference materials). The lecture titles are respectively, "Setting a good example: Dealing with meaning in learner dictionaries" and "Usage Guides: Keeping up with the Language."

Publications

The Research Bulletin of English Teaching, No.3 (The JACET Hokkaido Chapter Research Paper Collection) and the 19th issue of the Chapter Newsletter will be issued in March, 2006.

(Yasushi Kawai, Hokkaido Univ.)

<Tohoku Chapter Report>

Timeline of the Year 2005

1) June 4, 12:00-17:10, Tohoku Gakuin Univ.

Board Meeting

Annual Chapter Convention

Special Lecture (1) and Symposium

2) September

JACET-Tohoku Newsletter No. 28 issued

3) October 1, 13:00-16:45, Akita Univ.

Regular Meeting

Presentations (1), (2), and (3).

4) December 3, 12:30-17:00

Board Meeting (to be held)

Presentations (4) and (5) and Special Lecture (2)

5) March, 2006

Board Meeting (to be held)

6) March

JACET-Tohoku Newsletter No. 29 (to be issued)

7) JACET-Tohoku Bulletin No. 1 (to be issued)

I. List of Special Lectures

(1) Jimbo Hisatake (Waseda Univ.)

"Communication and English Grammar from a materials development perspective" June 4, 2005, Tohoku Gakuin Univ.

(2) Aizawa Kazumi (Tokyo Denki Univ.)

II. Symposium

Theme: Communication and English Grammar

Chair: Ogata Ryodo (Tohoku Univ. of Art & Design)

Panelists: "Indispensable Formal Instruction"

Fukuchi Kazunori (Sendai National College of Technology)

"English grammar and usage that need to be taught explicitly to Japanese students"

Takahashi Kiyoshi (Miyagi Univ. of Education)

"Grammar in Context"

Jimbo Hisatake (Waseda Univ.)

III. List of Presentations

(1) "The Influence of Language Environment and the Personality Factors on EFL Learners' Willingness to Communicate"

Tsue Natsuko (Graduate Student of Akita Univ. Graduate School of Education)

October 1, 2004, Akita Univ.

(2) "Learner Autonomy and Culture: Universals and Specifics"

Sara Cotterall (Akita International Univ.)

October 1, 2004, Akita Univ.

(3) "Perceptions in Language Teaching"

David E. Ingram (Melbourne Univ. Private)

October 1, 2004, Akita Univ.

(4) Narisawa Yoshio (Tohoku Gakuin Univ.)

December 3, 2005, Sendai City Civic Auditorium (to be given)

(5) "Toward the Improvement of Elementary School English Activities in terms of Communication Competence"

Aizawa Marie (Shokei Gakuin College) and Miyasone Mika (Tohoku Institute of Technology)

December 3, 2005, Sendai City Civic Auditorium (to be given)

IV. Publications

- (1) JACET-Tohoku Newsletter 28, September issued
- (2) JACET-Tohoku Newsletter 29, March, 2006 (to be issued)
- (3) JACET-Tohoku Bulletin No. 1, 2006 (to be issued)

JACET-Tohoku Newsletter 29, including reports of the lectures and the paper presentations, is going to be issued in March, 2006.

The preparation for the Bulletin of Tohoku Chapter has been made by Watanabe Yoshinori (Akita Univ.), Itagaki Nobuya (Miyagi Univ. of Education), Muranoi Hitoshi (Tohoku Gakuin Univ.) and Sakuma Yasuyuki (Fukushima Univ.).

<Chubu Chapter Report>

*Apologies: Due to an unfortunate confusion in electronic information exchange, the Chubu Chapter report was missing from the last issue of the JACET Newsletter, no. 149. The missed news is included in this issue. I sincerely apologize for the mishap. (Y. Murata)

Annual Chapter Convention

The annual chapter convention was held at Tokai Gakuen University on June 4. The convention theme was "Jugyogaku o Kangaeru - Kenkyu Taisho to shiteno Eigo no Jugyo," and the plenary speech was given by Prof. Kojiro Asao (Ritsumeikan Univ.) on the subject. Also the symposium was lead by Prof. Mamoru Morizumi (Obirin Univ,) with Prof. Tomoyasu Kimura (Nagoya Univ. of Foreign Languages), Prof. Tomiko Komiya (Okazaki Junior College), and Prof. Hikaru Uda (Nanzan Univ) as the panelists. In addition nine presentations were given at the convention.

Study Meetings

One study meeting was held at Tokai Gakuen University Sakae Satellite Campus on March 12. Prof. Toshiaki Kawahara(Kanazawa Seiryo Univ.) gave a lecture on "English Education in Multicultural Society." Prof. Keiko Takikawa (Nagoya Bunri Univ.) and Prof. John Adamson (Shinshu Tonan Junior College) also gave presentations entitled "ESP Kyoiku no Seika -Eiyogaku Eigo no Kiso kara" and "Sociolinguistics through English: a Collaborative Approach" respectively.

Executive Committee Meetings

1. Date: March 12

Venue: Tokai Gakuen Univ. Sakae Satellite Campus

Agenda: Honbu report, Chubu Chapter report, Personnel, Budget, chapter convention and

chapter Newsletter

2. Date: April 9

Venue: Tokai Gakuen Univ. Miyoshi Campus

Agenda: Honbu report

3. Date: July 9

Venue: Tokai Gakuen Univ. Miyoshi Campus

Agenda: Honbu report, annual chapter convention report, lecture meeting on October 15, study

meeting in December, chapter constitution changes

Steering Committee Meetings for the Annual Chapter Convention

1. Date: April 9

Venue: Tokai Gakuen Univ. Miyoshi Campus

Agenda: Program and work assignment

2. Date: April 30

Venue: Tokai Gakuen Univ. Miyoshi Campus

Agenda: Program and work assignment

Publications

JACET-Chubu Newsletter No.14 was issued on 9 May.

(Yasumi MURATA, Meijo Univ.)

< Kansai Chapter Report>

Activities of the Kansai Chapter during the last half of 2005 and scheduled activities for early 2006 include the following:

2005 Fall Conference

Date: Saturday, October 8, 2005

Place: Kobe University

[Workshops]

Workshop 1: Classology: A Quest for Successful English Classes

Presenters: TAKAHASHI Toshio (Kansai Univ.), SASAI Etsuko (St. Andrew's Univ.), TOGO Tazu

(Kyoto Notre Dame Univ.), NOMURA Kazuhiro (Kobe City Univ. of Foreign Studies)

Workshop 2: Exploring Effective Instructions for Reading with the Help of Shadowing or

Reading-Aloud Task

Presenters: SHIKI Osato (Kansai Gaidai College), KURAMOTO Atsuko (Hiroshima International

Univ.), ITOH Kayoko (Kwansei Gakuin Univ.), NISHIDA Harumi (Kansai Gaidai Univ.)

[Individual Presentations]

Session 1: Changes in Reading Strategy and Reading Anxiety after Reading and Watching Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, MATSUDA Sae (Setsunan Univ.); The Impact of Reading Task-Types and the Evaluation on Learners' Affect, TAKAHASHI Masayuki (Osaka Prefectural Yamada Senior High School); A Questionnaire Research on the Effectiveness of CALL Material of a Method of Teaching Present Perfect Tense Utilizing a Visual Image, MORINAGA Koji (Doshisha Univ.)

Session 2: The Relationships between the Central Executive Tasks and Spans for English Sentences and Mental Rotations- Psycholinguistic Study for Japanese EFL Leaners, NAKANISHI Hiroshi (Kwansei Gakuin Univ. Graduate School); A Study on Teachers' Perspective about Team Teaching, NAKAJIMA Masayasu (Otokoyama Higashi Junior High School in Yawata City); What Is the Role of Materials?: Applying Soft Systems Methodology (SSM) to Materials Development, MASWANA Sayako (Kyoto Univ. Graduate School)

Session 3: Let Us Figure Out How *Figure Out* Is Organized, AOKI Makiko (Free / Translation Writing); Attrition in Lexical Knowledge of English in Japanese University Students: A Case Study, OKAMOTO Mayumi (Setsunan Univ.); The Difficulty Order of English Postmodification for

Japanese EFL Learners, HIRAI Ai (Kobe Univ. Graduate School) and HASHIMOTO Ken-ichi (Univ. of Queensland Graduate School)

[Symposium]

Title: Are You Literaturing? Has the Importance of Literature Materials Disappeared

from University English Teaching?

Moderator: TOYOTA Masanori (Kansai Gaidai Univ.)

Panelists: SAITO Yoshifumi (The Univ. of Tokyo), WAKASHIMA Tadasi (Kyoto

Univ.)

Lectures and Symposia

1. Annual Lecture

Date: July 2, 2005

Place: Kyoto University of Foreign Studies

Presenter: MORIZUMI Mamoru (Obirin Univ.; President of JACET)

Title: Three Challenges Facing Language Education in Japan: Different Language Education

Starting with English

2. Chapter Co-Sponsored Lecture

Date: October 11, 2005

Place: Kansai Gaidai University, Nakamiya Campus

Presenter: Michael McCarthy (Professor Emeritus, Nottingham Univ.)

Title: Lessons from the Analysis of Chunks

3. First Chapter Lecture of the 2005 Academic Year

Date: October 29, 2005

Place: Takatsuki City Lifelong Learning Center Presenter: MIZUNO Makiko (Senri Kinran Univ.)

Title: What Universities Can Do in the Field of "Community Interpretation" (lecture) Applying

Interpreter Training to University English Education (workshop)

4. Chapter Co-Sponsored Symposium

Date: November 7, 2005

Place: Kansai Gaidai University, Nakamiya Campus

Presenters: John C. Wells (Univ. College London), Michael Ashby (Univ. College London), Patricia Ashby (Westminster Univ.), Bilyana Cubrovic (Belgrade Univ.)

Title: Phonetics and English Language Education

5. Second Chapter Lecture of the 2005 Academic Year

Date: December 10, 2005 Place: Co-op Inn Kyoto

Presenter: ISHIKAWA Yasushige (Kyoto Univ. of Foreign Studies)

Title: Things to Consider before "Teaching Content": Rethinking Teaching Style

6. Third Chapter Lecture of the 2005 Academic Year

Date: March 5, 2006

Place: Campus Plaza Kyoto

Presenter: HAYASHI Keiko (Hiroshima Jogakuin Univ.)

Topic: Foreign Language Instruction and Parent-Child Interaction in Foreign Language Learning

(final title to be announced)

Publications

JACET Kansai Journal, Vol. 8 was published in June 2005 with the following contents:

[Papers]

Title: Validity of an Instrument Measuring English Pronunciation Performance

Author: YOSHIDA Hiroko (Osaka Jogakuin University)

Title: The Relationship between Reading Process and Comprehension in L2 Reading

Author: YOSHIDA Mami (Kyoto Univ. of Foreign Studies)

[Research Notes]

Title: Needs for English in the Hotel Industry: A Triangulation of Quantitative and

Qualitative Analysis

Author: IWAI Chiharu (Osaka Univ. of Economics)

Title: The Problem of and Solution to Japanese Collocations in Japanese-English

Dictionaries

Author: MORIGUCHI Minoru (Hiroshima International Univ.)

(the next issue of the JACET Kansai Journal will be published in 2007)

JACET-Kansai Newsletter, Numbers 28, 29 and 30 were published in calendar year 2005. Current and back issues of the newsletter can be accessed at http://www.jacet-kansai.org/newsletter.html

Information on Chapter SIGs

The Kansai Chapter has 11 special interest groups that conduct research in a wide range of fields. For more information, please refer to the following Web page:

http://www.jacet-kansai.org/kenkyukai.html

Announcements

The 2006 Spring Conference will be held at Ritsumeikan University in June 2006. The deadline for the call for papers is February 27, 2006.

For further information on the conference and all other Chapter activities, please refer to the Kansai Chapter Web site at http://www.jacet-kansai.org.

(Robert J. Fouser, Kyoto University)

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<Chugoku-Shikoku Chapter Report>

(1)Annual Chapter Convention

Date: June 11, 2005; Place: Shimane Univ.

(A)Presentations

Deena Quadir Moriam (MA Student, IDEC, Hiroshima Univ.) and Tadashi Nishida (Hiroshima Univ.): "Speaking Strategy Use by the EFL Students in Japan and Bangladesh"; Vasantha Danapala (MA Student, IDEC, Hiroshima Univ.): "Language Learning Strategies: A Cross-cultural Comparison"; Joseph Nattress (Matsuyama Univ.): "Simulating Real-life Communication in the Classroom Using Impromptu Skits"; Tomoko Nakamura (Hiroshima International Univ.): "Creating a Pilot Program of E-learning for False Beginners Using Multimedia"; Hidetomo Torigoe (Takuma NCT): "Verbal Strategies to Keep Conversation Going On"; Toshiaki Takahashi (Yamaguchi Univ.): "Hints for Improving ESL Teaching -- With Reference to the Teacher's Technique of Questioning"

(B)Lecture

Osamu Takeuchi (Kansai Univ.): "Before You Start A New EFL Program: Filling Gaps between Purposes and Evaluation"

(C) Symposium

Theme: "New Attempts to Improve English Competence"; Panelists: Chiaki Iwai (Hiroshima City Univ.): "Providing Opportunities for Authentic Language Use? In Reference to a Summer Intensive Course "HIROSHIMA and PEACE" at Hiroshima City University"; Toshiyuki Takagaki (Onomichi Univ.): "Activities for Raising Students' Awareness of Linguistic Realities of English"; Hideo Horibe (Hiroshima Institute of Technology): "Possibilities of International Student Exchange between Universities -- A Case Study of UI-HIT Program"

(2)Steering Committee Meeting

The first steering committee meeting was held on June 11, 2005 at Shimane University.

(Hidetomo Torigoe, Takuma NCT)

< Kyushu-Okinawa Chapter Report>

June 25

SIG East Asia English Education 52nd Seminar (Venue: Seinan Gakuin Univ.)

Speaker: Robert Fouser (Kyoto Univ.)

Topic: An Examination of the New "College English Curriculum Requirements"

in China

July 16

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SIG East Asia English Education 53rd Seminar (Venue: Seinan Gakuin Univ.)

Speaker: Kiyoko Hirai (Kitazato Univ.) Topic: A Qualitative Analysis of the JCEE English Tests and Senior High School English Textbooks in Taiwan

July 16

SIG on ESP 5th Seminar (Venue: Kumamoto Univ.)

Presentation 1: 「コーパス分析に基づく医学英語教育システムの構築: 意義と概要」Shozo Yokoyama (Miyazaki Univ.)

Presentation 2:「工学系学生用CALL教材開発について」Hisako Yamauchi (Kurume Institute of Technology)

Lecture 1:「新TOEFLについて」 Akio Nishimura (CIEE Kyushu)

Lecture 2: 「Effective Reading: an ASP e-learning CALL solution for English language education in Japanese Universities」 Benjamin Porter, Mitsugu Shishido (Seibido)

Lecture 3:「オープンソースMoodleについて」Mitsuhiro Yoshida (Mitsutech Consulting: Moodle Parter)

July 23

The 3rd Steering Committee Meeting

August 31

The 4th Steering Committee Meeting

October 1

SIG East Asia English Education 54th Seminar (Venue: Seinan Gakuin Univ.)

Speaker: Yoko Shomura & Hyejin Kim (Kurume Univ.)

Topic: On the difficulties which L2 learners will experience: a crosslinguistic study of Japanese, English, Chinese and Korean

October 7

The 5th Steering Committee Meeting

October 8, 2005

Kyushu-Okinawa Chapter 20th Annual Conference and Chapter General Meeting

(Venue: Kumamoto Univ.)

Conference Theme: Diversification of College English Education: From a Pedagogical Research

Point of View

See http://www.n-junshin.ac.jp/jacet/ for the conference program.

November 12

SIG on ESP 6th Seminar (Venue: Miyazaki Univ.)

Workshop: A Corpus-based Analysis of the ESP Vocabulary (Shinichiro Ishikawa, Kobe Univ.)

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Lecture: Effective Reading: an ASP e-learning CALL solution for English language education in Japanese Universities (Benjamin Porter, Seibido reallyenglish) See http://yokoyama.miyazaki-med.ac.jp/research/kaken/seminar.html for the detail.

November 19

SIG East Asia English Education 55th Seminar (Venue: Seinan Gakuin Univ.)

Speaker: Akiko Tsuda (Kurume Univ.)

Topic: An Analysis of the ELF Online Syllabi in Kyushu University's General Education

Curriculum

November 30

Annual Review of English Learning and Teaching No. 10 to be published.

December 10

SIG East Asia English Education 56th Seminar (Venue: Seinan Gakuin Univ.)

Speaker: Takayoshi Takei (Seinan Gakuin Univ.)

Topic: Problems with studying English abroad: A case of Vancouver

Official Chapter Homepage: http://www.n-junshin.ac.jp/jacet/

(Toshihiro Shimizu, Kyushu Univ.)

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