

## NUFS Workshop 2015

*Newsletter No. 11***Final Presentation**

**Date:** March 26, 2016, 14:00-17:00

March 27, 2016, 9:00-11:30

**Venue:** XIV Toba

**The number of participants:** 20

**Advisors:** Kazuyoshi Sato (NUFS),

Robert Croker (Nanzan University)

**Abstract:** Each member made their final presentation on their action research. They reported what they did, what happened, what they learned, future issues and so on.

**Comments from the participants****1. What did you think about the final presentation? What did you learn/notice?**

- I learnt how to summarize the result results and how to put the data quantitatively and qualitatively, thanks to other participants' advice. I also learnt how to analyse the data more analytically and critically.
- It is a good opportunity to reflect on and summarize in a report what I did for one year. With the reflection I can find a new issue which should be changed, focused on, or worked on next year. And advice from Yoshi and mates are precious. I can also get ideas from classmates' reports.
- Definitely I got some ideas to improve my AR from not only advisors 'advice but also our peers and graduates' wonderful teaching practices. Also, I was trained to make a good presentation in front of audiences.
- I felt that the logistics were as always very well planned. The atmosphere was good for a relaxed and effective presentation session. Also, the equipment provided was excellent.
- Every presenter implemented CLT, adopting what they learned in the TESOL program. It is very important to make a plan throughout the year. I would like to use some of their activities in my lessons.

**2. How do you feel of a monthly workshop? Did you learn any good ideas from the instructor? Which one(s) did you like the best? What kinds of topics do you want for future workshops?**

- I enjoyed learning and sharing many ideas or concepts at the workshop. It is always nice to meet other participants. It's free, but we can learn a lot about the latest topics in English education. I learned so many great ideas from the instructors. Those ideas help me to implement CLT(communitive language teaching). I'm personally interested in SCT and brain psychology, so I liked "Neuro ELT"(Nov.) and "The Neuroscience of storytelling"(Jan.) Testing. I want to learn how tests effective to students, and critical thinking.
- The monthly workshop is very informative and interesting. The speakers are qualified, experienced and varied and all offer a different perspective on EFL in Japan. The young American teacher from the

British Council is the best I have seen so far. I would like to see a workshop on how to carry out effective AR depending on your situation and/or changes within it.

- My action research was about extensive reading, so I was very interested in Prof. Yamanaka's workshop. I will continue extensive reading lessons next year and I want learn more about it.

### **3. What do you think of the action research project you have participated in 2014? Did it help you to improve your teaching skills? (For the participants of the second session only)**

- Absolutely it was helpful for me to improve my teaching skills because it offered me to think of my teaching in a scientific manner.
- Yes, very much. If I had not participated in AR project, I could never have noticed the power and benefits of conversation tests.
- Yes, it was very helpful. I hope to learn more about data collection in future in order to have more to present.
- Through the action research, I learned how my teaching influenced students' learning. I think it would have been more helpful if I had asked students more often or reflected my lessons regularly.

### **4. What is(are) the reason(s) of not being able to attend monthly workshop?**

- Club activity at school.
- Family events, school events
- Commonly I am working or have a family event.
- I had to go on a school trip. I had a cold and felt sick.

### **5. How can we improve this action research/ monthly workshop project? How can we attract more teachers? Please write your comment/advice.**

- I wish I could hear all presentations. I know it is not possible because of the limited time. I wanted to decide which group to be by myself, because I sometimes had friends. I wanted to share the AR reports with in the same group. Teachers are getting busier and busier, so it is getting more difficult to attend without any strong support from their own school or a policy maker. Especially in public high schools in Aichi, teachers can't avoid being in charge of a club activity. I often invite my colleagues who seem interested. However, they often can't make it because they are too tired. Moreover, to be honest, I feel guilty coming to the workshop and not going to school for club activities or other things. )
- I would suggest a more direct link between class modules and the presentations. EFL is such a broad topic and individual areas of interest so specialised and diverse that it is sometimes hard to see the link between presentation topics and class topics. It is however excellent when a course book author presents as this for me relates directly to my classroom teaching situation.
- I don't come up with any solutions, but I think the way to distribute the monthly reports to other participants might be considered. Some participants couldn't sometimes get the report for the second-session.



- If NUFSS wants newcomers to attend action research, why don't you set a time to discuss problems each teacher has in his/ her own school context and give advice to revise handouts or try a new way of teaching. Every teacher seeks a better way and longs for new advice, suggestion, and ideas. I think it is quite tough work for newcomers to write AR report. So let them talk without paper is casual. I hope that they will come back again with a result of their trial.
- I felt there was an imbalance between semester 1 and semester 2 in terms of the number of workshops. As for semester 1, we had 5 workshops. On the other hand, we had 7 workshops for semester 2. 6 and 6 could be an option because we had more audiences in workshops in semester 1.

***Thank you for your cooperation to NUFSS Workshop in 2015. We are looking forward to seeing you again in 2016.***