

NUFS Workshop 2016

Newsletter No. 11

Final Presentation

Date: March 25, 2017, 14:00-17:00

March 26, 2017, 9:00-11:30

Venue: Hotel Takeshima (Gamagori, Aichi)

The number of participants: 17

Advisors: Kazuyoshi Sato, Duane Kindt (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 learned a lot from the presenters' individual styles, their materials and the instructors' feedback. I noticed that I must improve in order to attain a reasonable level in my final year. I learned a lot from my advisor's feedback.
- I thought they were great. They showed me how to use focus on form in class, and there were many good ideas for constructing questionnaires. I especially enjoyed the second-year students' presentations, they had so much good information and I got some great ideas for future research.
- Generally, it is always good to see what other students in the program are up to. It is always helpful to see different angles and approaches. I am always surprised about how the teachers comment on things and how teachers understand what each student want to achieve. I myself was a bit disappointed about my own presentation and yet amazed by the presentations of the second year students on the second day.
- I found the final presentations to be very beneficial for me. I learned a lot about what others were doing with their research and found the feedback helpful. Especially, I learned a good idea about rubrics and how to use them to promote different kinds of success with students.
- I attended the workshop as an observer in order to see whether I could pursue my interest in the extension of my research done at other university. I have a feeling that I am in the right place after observing all the presentation and listening to instructors and peers' feedbacks. I've decided to sign up for the AR course as a non-degree student this coming academic year. Thank you for the opportunity.

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?

- Yes, many! In particular, I learned a lot about extensive reading, positive psychology, learning communities and task-based learning.
- I have often been benefitted by the monthly workshops. I can get much information about new ideas and books. This is one of my most important origins of teaching information. I enjoy the monthly workshops and have particularly enjoyed the Mutoh and Kelly workshops recently.
- I really liked Professor Tim Murphy's presentation and Ms Nancy Mutoh's presentation as it was easier for me to consider my teaching approach based on my teaching contexts. I would like to take workshops on content-based writing pedagogy and extensive reading in senior high school contexts. Moreover, I am also interested in human education and cross-cultural understanding through ELT.
- I think, the workshops are really good. I always enjoy group or pair work where we can share out opinions and ideas. There was a couple that I really liked. I still remember the one by a Japanese professor about personalizing, and the last two about writing. I thought Mr. Kelly's was really good and helpful for me. The textbook that we received has many great ideas for writing, I think. As long as the topics are practical any theme is fine.
- Monthly workshops for me were enjoyable and many were very helpful for my context. Most of them provided new ideas and different perspectives for teaching that I applied in my schools. I learned a lot about how to make reading and writing more communicative. I think my favorite was by Curtis Kelly because the text he gave to participants really helped give new ideas. Future topics I would be interested in would be integrating technology into the classroom and ways to motivate students. Also, learning about various ways of assessment would be very helpful in my context.



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)

- Yes a lot. The advisor class observations were super useful and I would like to have even more of them if possible. Even more than teaching skills, it really helped me to improve my research skills. I think research skills can be considered the most important, because we can use our research to improve our own teaching.
- My action research project gave me incredible insight into what it means to do research and conduct classes communicatively. For the first time, I made questionnaires to give to students and used a variety of other data collecting handouts. My research lessons helped a great deal when becoming a more communicative teacher.
- Overall the AR project was a wonderful experience. Over the year, I've learned to understand where I need to go and found a much clearer direction.
- Our supervisors and teachers (at the monthly meetings) are professional and always open for questions and advice. There were a couple of situations where I had a tense discussion (once with my supervisor

and once with a teacher) and in the end there were no hard feelings. This for me is an example of professionalism. After each monthly meeting the comments we receive from both teachers and fellow students are always helpful. I was happy to hear on the study trip when a fellow student said that he wanted to hear my presentation. I hope that I can improve further in 2017.

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

- I believe that the project is really good and the reason that there are not more teachers is that many don't know about it, I believe. There is one suggestion I have. It would be great to have a one on one meeting between supervisor and student once a month for maybe 30 minutes. That way we could prepare some questions about several issues we have about AR and ask the supervisor directly. Sometimes at the monthly meeting there just isn't enough time for that.
- I would suggest publicizing the different contexts current MA TESOL students come from and how graduated have improved their working status.
- I think workshops are fine the way they are. However, I have one suggestion for AR meetings dealing with these weekend events we do three times a year. Personally, I think we should choose venues that perhaps are cheaper so participants don't have to share rooms with 2-3 other people. Sharing with one other person may be ok, but I believe many of us would appreciate having our own room. More teachers can be attracted through more advertisement. Personally, I have never seen these advertised anywhere and wonder how teachers find out about them.
- Before the workshops, we should read our partners' AR report and write down good points and questions. This would help the class to go much more smoothly and make us more productive.



Thank you for your cooperation to NUFSS Workshop in AY2016.

We are looking forward to seeing you again in AY2017.