

# Final Action Research Report 2016

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1. Title: Improving students' communicative competence through focus on form instructions and performance tests

2. Context:

- a. Level: second year of JH students
- b. Class size: two students (2 girls) 90 minutes (every Thursday)
- c. Textbook: Very Easy Story
- d. Issues: Improving students' accuracy is very hard

3. Goal: Give the chance students to exposure language including target grammar : Encourage students to keep their confidence of language skills

4. Students' objectives

- (1) Students can speak 2.5 minutes about their favorite things.
- (2) Students can write essay about their favorite things by using 100 words.
- (3) Students can feel satisfaction through performance tests.

5. What I did

- (1) I did focus on form instructions to introduce students new grammar forms (comparison/superlative/positive degree) in classes.
- (2) I designed lesson plans to give students chances to use these new grammar forms to express their favorite things for writing and speaking
- (3) I made students do peer-editing or self-editing to notice their grammatical and spelling errors.
- (4) I did error-correction for students to improve their accuracy.
- (5) I encouraged students to read books which include the new target grammar forms as Extensive Reading(ER).
- (6) I emphasized the power of conversation strategies to flow students conversation.

6. Results

S2(Sep-Dec), S3 and S4 (Sep-Mar) took performance tests.

Table 1. Word length of students essays (Sep-Mar)

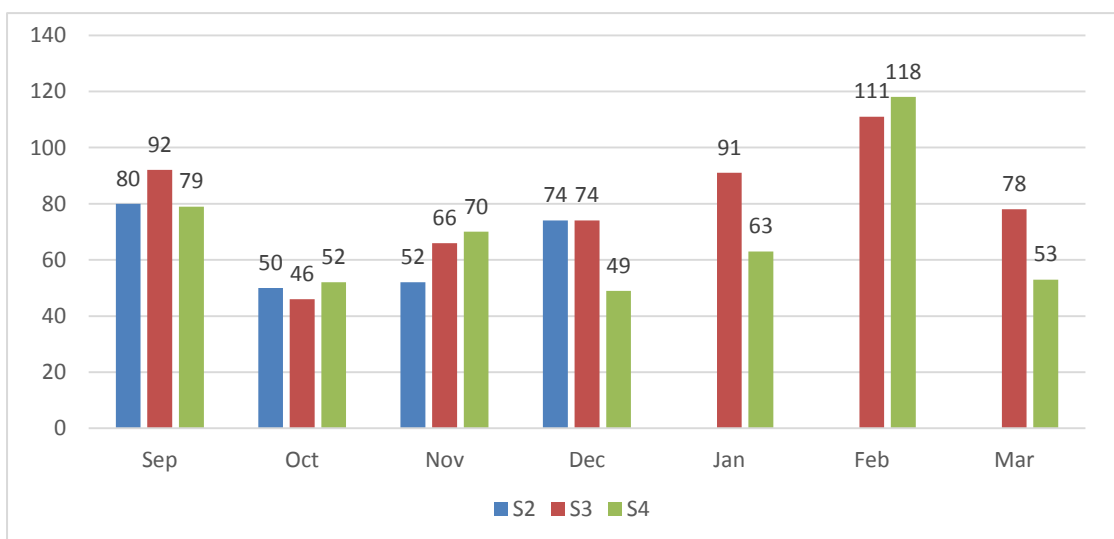


Table 2. Students' average words length from September to March

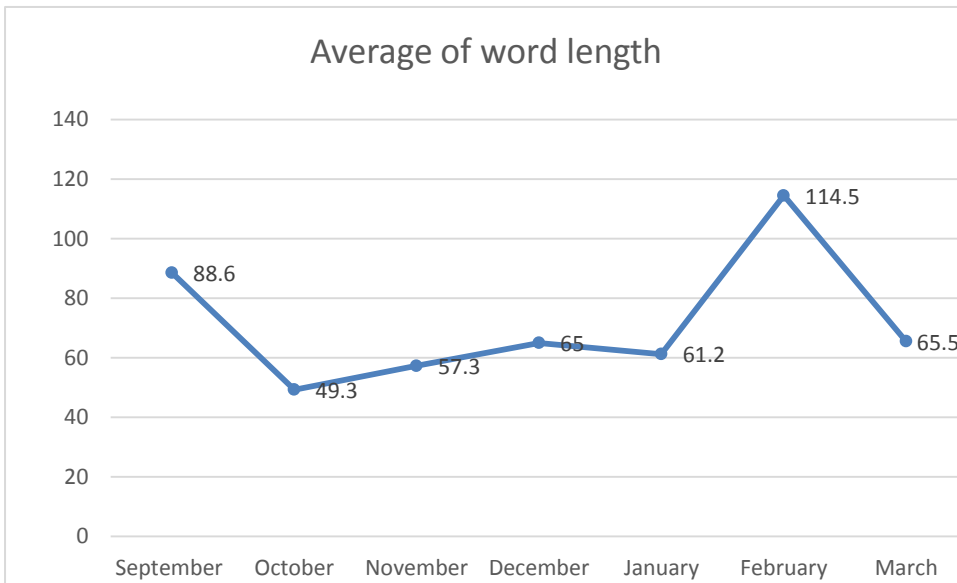


Table 3. Monthly essay topics & Average words number

Month	Topic	Average
September	Summer vacation	88.6
October	Letter to Samar	49.3
November	I want to be	57.3
December	If I am a principal	65
January	Winter vacation	61.2
February	My favorite	114.5
March	Best vacation	65.5

Table 4. Students' errors in each essay

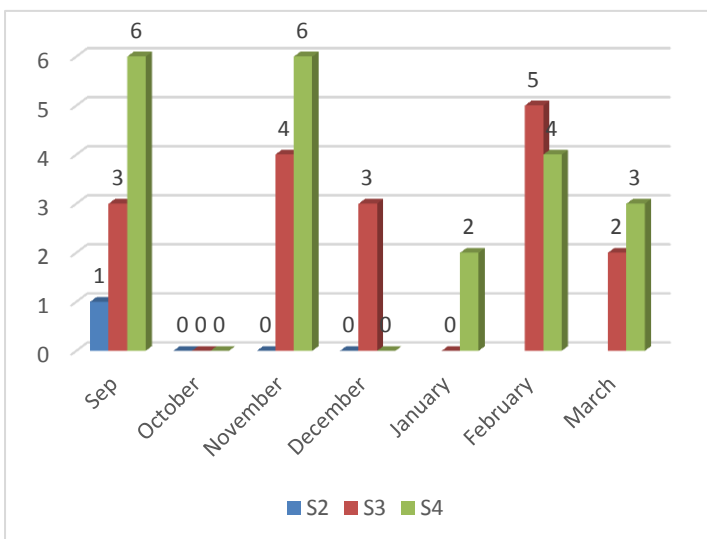
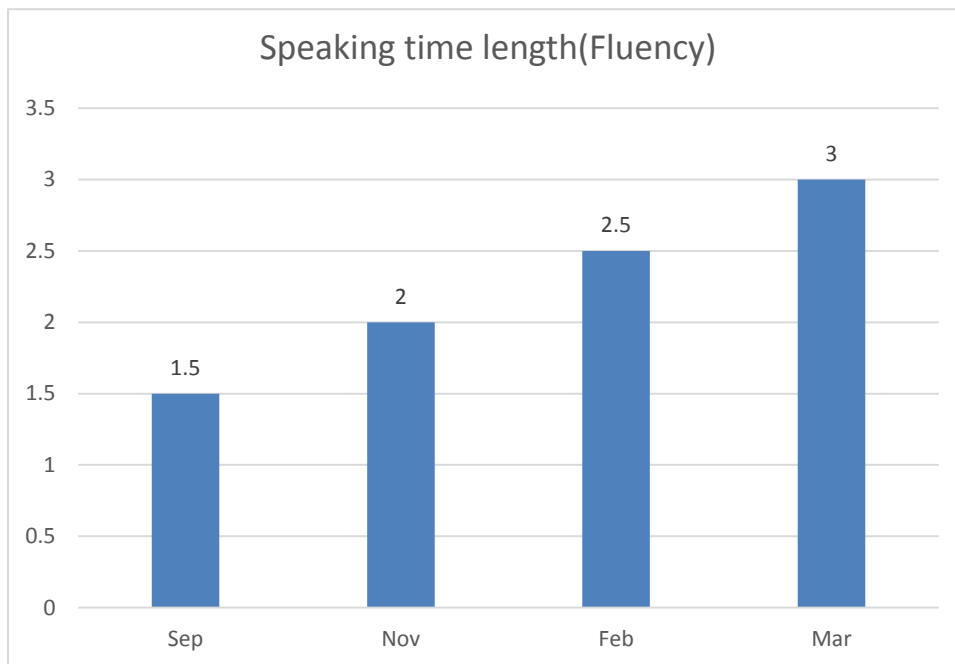


Table 5. Fluency vs Accuracy

Fluency vs Accuracy				
	Fluency (total word length)		Accuracy (total errored times)	
S2	256		1	
S3	480		17	
S4	484		21	

Table 6. Speaking fluency



All students can speak English longer and longer from Sep. to Mar.

### Students' comments

<Writing >

S3: I tried using various grammar forms to express my favorite things. Writing is fun.

S4: I am happy to write essay with 100 words within 10 minutes. I want to pass Eiken 3<sup>rd</sup> grade next June.

<Speaking>

S3: I did my best, but I might have used better expression in speaking test. Next time, I will practice more for the test.

S4: I reached my goal as 2.5 min. Conversation today

<Grammar>

S3: It's easy for me to use target grammar forms during focus on form (FonF) activities, but hard to use them on speaking and writing.

However, I want to try out to choose various grammar patterns which I already learned to state my opinions.

S4: I prefer speaking to writing, because it's complicated for me to use different grammar forms.

In addition, I do not care to write English with same grammar pattern.

## 6. What I learned

- (1) Students seldom made errors after reading model essay, and students' essay contents turned to be similar with other students.
- (2) The more students wrote words on their essays, the more they made errors. However, they learned English thoroughly by revising the essay thanks to these mistakes. It is very natural to acquire second language for Japanese students.
- (3) As students kept motivation to write more than 100 words and had 2.5 minutes conversation, they made huge efforts to complete these tasks. After the task completed, they satisfied and increased the confidence to do communication in English.
- (4) Some students improved discourse competence through reading books as ER.

## 7. Future issues

- (1) I will set up 4 skills-integrated-lesson plans to encourage students to use English for communication.
- (2) I will do cycled lessons to improve their communicative competence.

### Lesson plan

Topic: Most favorite thing

- (1) Day one: Book Talk: Info Trail, Star Wars, etc....

Singing a song: Play the funky music

FonF: Which is bigger? Slower? Longer?

Planning: Making mini book (best, most thing in the world)

- (2) Day two: Book Talk; I'm the biggest thing in the ocean.

Song: Play the funky music

FonF: Picotaro is the most famous people in the world

Speaking: 1.5 min.

Writing: 2<sup>nd</sup> draft

- (3) Day three: Book Talk; Worst ever helper

Information exchange task; "What is the most favorite"

FonF: Hoshigen is as popular as Issei.









Singing a song: As long as you love me (Back street Boys)

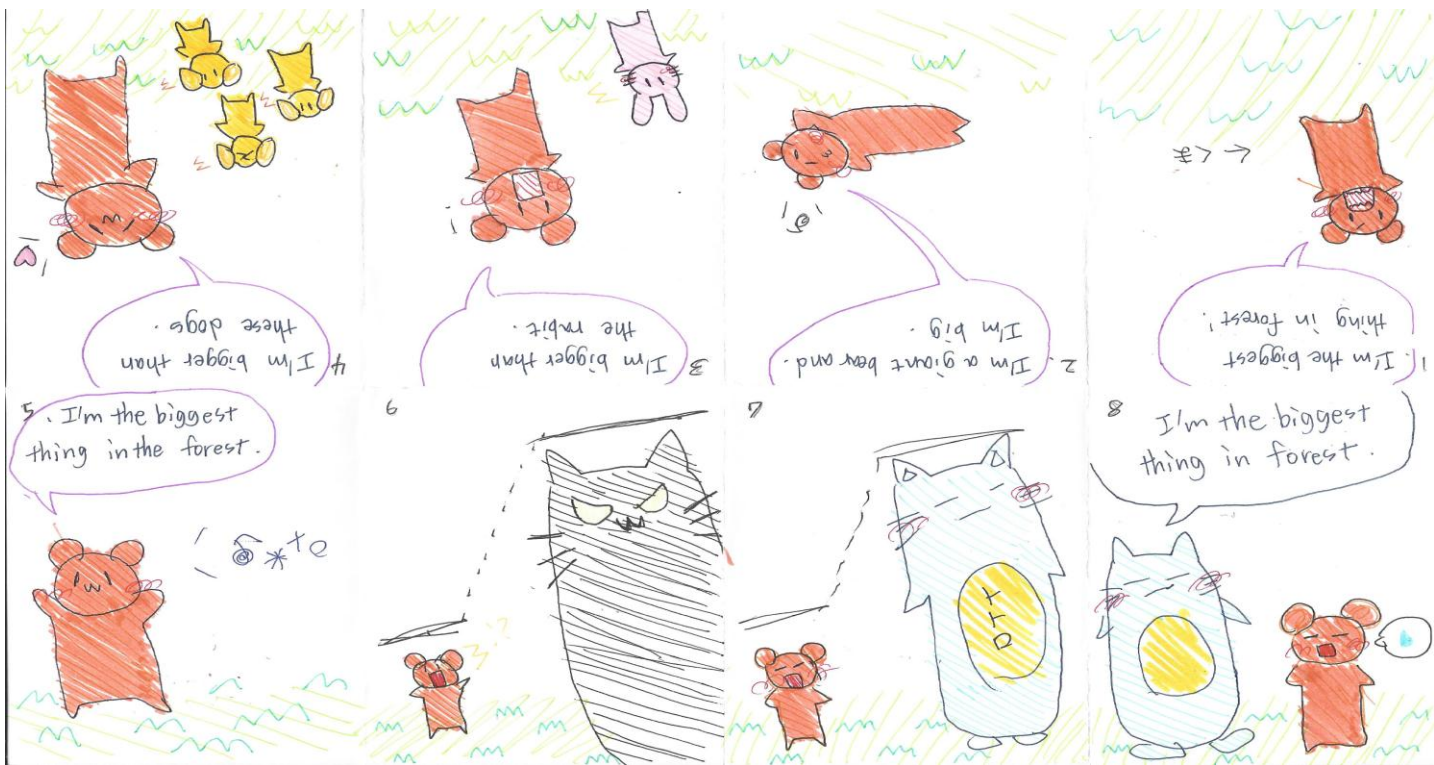
- (4) Day four: Performance test:

1. "Most favorite" Essay writing and speaking (Performance tests)
2. Show and Tell "Mai is the most beautiful in NOGIZAKA 46"

# Handout 1 Let's make mini book "I'm the biggest thing in the ocean"

A タイトルを決める (1) B 結末 (8) C 展開 (6, 7) D 導入を考える(2,3,4,5) E イラスト描く

<p>1 (タイトル) 例 I'm the biggest thing in the ocean.</p> 	<p>2 I'm a giant squid and I'm big</p> 	<p>3 I'm bigger than that shark. (Shhhhh)</p> 	<p>4 I'm bigger than these turtles</p> 
<p>5 I'm the biggest thing in the ocean.</p> 	<p>6 展開 (何かが起こる)</p> 	<p>7 そのせいでーーーーになる。</p> 	<p>8 結末 I'm the biggest thing in this whale.</p> 



比べてみよう

1回戦

English VS math

A君 Which is easier, math or English?

B君 Hmm. I think English is easier than math. How about you?

A君 Me? I agree with you. English is easier than math.

2回戦

Internet VS TV

友達の意見を聞いてみよう。B欄に書こう。A欄には自分の意見を書こう

Aさん Which is more interesting, Internet or TV?

Bさん Let me see. I think ( ) is more interesting than ( )

How about you?

Aさん Me? I think so ,too. ( ) is ( ) than ( ) .



3回戦 ( ) VS( ) 比べる質問を作ろう

★Which is ( )

Talk with your partner!

(

)

最強? 最少? 一番〇〇を探してみよう。

1回戦

動物の中で世界最速は?

Aさん What animal is the fastest in the world?

Bさん Let me see. I think puma is the fastest animal in the world. What do you think?

Aさん Hmm. I think falcon t is the fastest animal in the world.

Bさん Falcon? I see. We have different opinion. Nice talking with you.

2回戦 一番の人気者はだれ?

Aさん What musician is the most popular in Japan?

Bさん Let me see. I think AKB48 is the most popular in Japan. What do you think?

Aさん AKB48? I don't think so. きゃりーぱみゅぱみゅ is the most popular in Japan.

Bさん きゃりーぱみゅぱみゅ? Hmm. We have different opinion. Nice talking with you.

3回戦 一番〇〇を友達に質問しよう。

質問(

)?

友達の答え



遅さ、難しさ、有名度 が同じなものって??

1回戦 遅さが同じ。

A君 Which animal moves slower snail or turtle?

B Let me see. I think snail moves as slow as turtle.

A I see. I think so ,too. Thanks.

2回戦 難しさが同じ

A Which subject is more difficult, science or math?

B Let me see. I think science is as difficult as math.

A I see. I think so, too . Thanks.

3回戦 ○○ は ○○ と 同じ ○○ を書いてみよう  
(人、動物など) (人、動物など) (速さ、面白さなど)

★AAA is as popular as サカナクション

★

★

## FINAL PROJECT

次の新聞記事を今月習った英語のルールを使って英語で書いてみよう

おきどきNEWS TV番組最新ランキング♪

おきどきえいごすくーるの生徒の中で一番人気のあるTV番組は“突然ですが明日結婚します”

“ワンピース”は“サザエさん”より人気があります。“コナン”は“ドラえもん”と同じくらい人気があります。

英文 ( )  
( )  
( )

Appendix 1 Student's essay  
1<sup>st</sup> draft (47 words)

Essay Title ( )

I like comick books best. So I collect a many comick book.  
 my favorite comic book is a "chichi go ko" because  
 character is funny and curw. But I like other  
 comic books. <sup>volley</sup> and  
 My favorite sport is volleyball. Volleyball is the most excited  
 of sport. But when I watch volley

47

2<sup>nd</sup> draft (100 words)

Essay Title ( most favorite things )

Most favorite comic books are Haipu, because I like  
 volleyball. Volley ball is the most interesting sport.  
 But I don't like watching volleyball games, because I think  
 playing volleyball is more interesting than watching volleyball games.  
 Most favorite song is Honeyworks. When I'm not  
 happy, I listened to Honeyworks's Tokyo summer session and  
 Saki Kirai. ~~These~~ songs are very good and wonderful.  
 Most favorite food is kishimen. Kishimen is <sup>the best</sup> ~~the best~~. <sup>so of</sup> ~~it~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~delicious~~  
~~I can't eat Udon as easy as kishimen. I eat it when I~~ <sup>am</sup> ~~am~~  
 sick. ~~Kishimen is most~~ 100

Second most favorite food is Udon. Because  
 If I am sick I can eat Kishimen or Udon.



Final draft (111 words)

Most favorite books are Haikyuu. And I like to play volleyball. I think playing volleyball is more interesting than watching volleyball games.

Most favorite food is Kishimen. It is soft and delicious. Second most favorite food is Udon. Because I think can't eat Udon as easy as Kishimen. If I am sick, I can eat Kishimen or Udon.

I like Arashi but I like Haneywork better than Arashi. I listen to Haneywork's songs sometime.

I like "Tokyo smauer session" and "Suki kirai" of Haneywork's song.

Most favorite subject is English. but I don't like study and Japanese. If I want to be a hairstylist, I speak English and Japanese well.

## Appendix 2 Variation

S1 ,2, 3,4 used target grammar on monthly essay

(S1 left my school at the end of Nov., S2 did at the end of Dec. S3 and S4 are learning in my school now)

<Target grammar>	<Essay Topic>						
	Vacation Plan (Sep)	Letter to Samar(Oct)	My dream (Nov)	If I am a principle(Dec)	Winter-vacation(Jan)	My favorite thing(Feb)	Best vacation (Mar)
1.be going to V	S1,S2,S3,S4	S1,S2,S3,S4	S2,S3,S4				
2.want to V	S1, S2, S3	S1,S2,S3,S4	S1, S3, S4	S4		S3,S4	S3
3.must		S1, S2, S3,S4	S1, S2, S3,S4	S2,S4			
4. am -ing			S3 S4	S3			
5 If,,,, I ,,,,			S4	S2 S3 S4		S3	
6.not have to				S2 S4			S3
7 mustn't				S4			
8.can				S3,S4			
9.may				S2 S3			
10. Playing is ~				S2 S3 S4	S3		
11.because				S2 S3 S4	S3	S3,S4	S3
12. so				S2	S3		S3
13.when					S3		S3
14.I think						S3	
15.er/est than						S3,S4	
16.as-as						S3	
17enjoyed -ing					S3		
18.There is(are)							