

## NUFS Workshop 2008

### *Newsletter No. 13*

#### Final Presentation

**Date:** March 28, 2009, 14:30-17:30,

March 29, 2009, 9:30-12:30

**Venue:** Conference room at Irago Garden Hotel

**The number of participants:** 19

**Advisors:** Nancy Mutoh, Kazuyoshi Sato (Nagoya University of Foreign Studies)

**Abstract:** Each action research group member made their final presentation on their action research. They reported what they did, what happened, what they learned, future issues and so on. They had a great time at Koijigahama beach after that.



#### Comments from the participants

##### 1. What do you think of the action research project you have participated in? Did it help you to improve your teaching skills?

- This was my first AR and I have been puzzled for the first 6 months before I get used to it. Even though I'm still in the middles of struggling to improve my teaching skills, I can at least feel that I have tried many new things in my classes.
- I would have stuck to my old way of teaching which I got used to without the action research. Although I have still may troubles to face to change my teaching, I'm sure I'm changing in the right direction.
- Without the action research program, I would not have improved the way I teach and would have missed chances to learn more effective ways to teach English and other related matters.
- This year, I tried out several in-class ER activities and observed how students developed their reading habits. I attended the monthly workshops and I had to reflect the activities and monitor students reading, which was a great help. If I hadn't worked on the project, I wouldn't have reflected classes. Though the action research project, I started to reflect what I had done and learned from my students.

##### 2. How was a monthly report and presentation?

- I am not used to giving a speech in front of people and still having a hard time to report things clearly. I hope to be able to improve my skills of giving presentations as the times goes on.
- They were tough but gave me opportunities to reflect on my past and future class design.



- I'm not good at making a report. It's not easy for me to focus on a certain point in teaching and explain the results.
- I learned how to modify the lesson and how to analyze the lesson plan from other teachers. It was also very helpful to listen to the reports from other teachers. I always got great ideas from them.
- It motivated me to keep studying. Interaction in presentation improved my English and made me confident. It gave me a hint to motivate students and made them confident as well.

**3. 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 really enjoyed monthly workshops. It's great to have opportunities to receive so many different teachers' instructions. I am interested in curriculum designing and am looking forward to attending the coming workshop of this title.
- The morning workshops were good stimulation and warm-up to the afternoon action research. Ms. Yamanaka's workshop gave me courage to continue extensive reading.
- I enjoyed attending the workshops every month. I'd like to keep attending it to get good ideas from instructors and other attendants.
- It was a great opportunity to take a lecture from university teachers. I can get new teaching methods and theory. Unfortunately, I attended only half of the workshops this year. Among them, Junko Yamanaka and Suzanne Bonn are the best. Next year, I want to learn more about extensive reading, alternative assessments and computer projects.
- As I was impressed by Ms. Yamanaka's extensive reading workshop, I decided to try to teach it. I would like to learn vocabulary learning with learning grammar.
- Each workshop gave me new insights for teaching and often helped me recall what I had learned before but forgotten. I found the workshop about vocabulary, extensive reading and remotivation the most useful. I would be happy if there was a workshop about classroom dynamics.

**4. How can we improve this action research project? Please write your comment/advice.**

- Through this program, I find that I am not the only one who have problems teaching. I cannot ask more for this great opportunity I get from this workshop.
- This time in final gathering, I happened to be in the group where I had the two teachers of academic high school and I was able to share the problems. I'd rather get together with the teachers with similar teaching situations.
- I'd like to focus on a certain topic and discuss it with other participants more during the action research session.
- This year, I didn't set up good research questions. I'd like to know about what kind of data I need and how to collect data to prove the students' performance. I'd also like to know how to analyze the students' comments.
- I think in mid/final action research presentation, each presenter should clearly show how the approach has changed in the course of time.



*Thank you for your cooperation to the NUFS Workshop 2008.*