

NUFS Workshop 2017

Newsletter No. 4

Workshop in August

Date: August 5-6, 2017

Venue: Green Hotel Sangane (Nishio, Aichi)

Advisors: Kazuyoshi Sato, Duane Kindt (NUFS)

Title: Mid-term presentation on action research

The number of presenters: 18



1. What did you learn from this two-day workshop?

- I learned that sharing your research with others can help you notice things about it that you hadn't noticed before. Through their own knowledge and experience, other teachers can offer a fresh perspective, and bring attention to details that you had not taken into consideration.
- I learned from Yoshi Sensei's guidance of Aiko Takeuchi's research project in feedback. It is clear that in order to develop a working NUFs AR project, we need to pursue similar but evolving research topics and questions. This allows for progression between each learning stage and each teaching context.
- Presentations at the workshop were great source of ideas for the next step as we shared our researches. Discussion with other students taught me the points I should do the same and the ways I should avoid. Especially, I learned I can change my evaluation criteria each time I assess the students according to the topic.
- I learned participants' action and research. I also got comments from my advisor. It is a good opportunity to get advice for my project.
- How to write official reports. I was very interested in Simon's presentation, especially "Flash Writing". I want to adapt this activity for JHS students and try the revised one in my classes.
- One of the main things I learned was how to better write a literature review and apply APA to my writing. Reviewing APA style before the presentations started was a nice way of getting everyone on the same page so our papers are more comparable in the future. As for literature reviews, seeing how everyone else approached theirs gave me ideas for how to better write mine since much of the content (like CLT or Communicative Competence) is shared between everyone.

2. How would you like to change your AR from now on?

- After analyzing the survey, I found some items are difficult to deal with. I will change the inquiries or make only inquiries that can be properly used.
- I would like to adjust a few activities and methods of data collection based on feedback I received from other teachers, and on suggestions my students made in their interviews.
- Honestly, finally I think I feel that my AR takes shape. I need to continue to work with my students and focus on my research questions. Maybe I should simplify my AR reports because they seem a bit too long each time.

- I need to revise my goals and objective more specifically. I have done AR since this April. I need to read books more and investigate more.
- I was told that I need to focus on my research issue more. My advisor showed me better research questions and research design.
- When it comes to changing my own action research, I feel I need to have much more quantitative data that can be comparable with a larger group outside of my relatively small class. As I have such few students and my research is not entirely generalizable, it is important to consider different ways to add more validity to my results. Besides that, I must change the primary focus of my research to focus-on-form grammar instruction so the content I cover better relates to what students do in their regular English lessons.

3. Other comments

- I'm always surprised to see other participants' action and research. I learned a lot from them and I'm always motivated to see other people's effort. And also it is a good opportunity to listen to the report from students who are graduating.
- I enjoyed the one advisor-per-room format, it was clearer and made it easier to remember feedback. Rotating first and second year presentations was a great idea.
- I really hope consultations will be included in the schedule, since usually professors are busy and we cannot see them easily.
- I feel many participants prefer to have this AR workshop in Nagoya and hope to see all the participants' presentations, not half.
- I personally like the idea to stay overnight at a hotel where students and teachers have a chance to spend time in a more casual way. I hope it stays that way.
- I'd like to comment about the schedule. You might know the ER World Congress held on the same weekend. I was looking forward to attend it, since I have learned ER is very good at NUFS and introduced it into my teaching. I hope those schedules should be taken into consideration since we can learn a lot there and get information which is very helpful for our teaching and research.
- The conference's night banquet dinner was highly enjoyable, with delicious foods and the opportunity to catch up with many fellow-students in a relaxed and warm atmosphere. It was good to see Kyonmi back from her study in Hawaii with many interesting experiences. The second-party held afterwards, was also a chance to discuss many issues at length with fellow students and teachers. The outdoor hot spring was perfect to relax in, and topped off a wonderful weekend. Thank you to everyone who involved in organizing it. I look forward to the end-of-year conference next March!



Next Workshop (scheduled)

Date: September 9, 2017, 10:30-14:30, 14:30-17:00

Venue: NSC College, Room 31

Presenter: Joseph Falout (Nihon University)

Title: "Switching the Script: Turn around Ten Teaching Preconceptions"