

NUFS Workshop 2018

Newsletter No. 4

Workshop in August

Date: August 4-5, 2018

Venue: Green Hotel Sangane (Nishio, Aichi)

Advisors: Kazuyoshi Sato, Juanita Heigham (NUFS)

Title: Mid-term presentation on action research

The number of presenters: 8



(1) How did you feel about your presentation? Did you get any useful/impressive comment or advice? What was it?

- I thought the presentation went well, and I am glad people wanted to learn more about it. Every comment is useful feedback, but above all the comments I received reassured me that what I was doing was meaningful and that I have something I can develop.
- Since it was the third time presenting my AR, I felt I could clarify my results and issues to the audience. Talking about my own research is easy now because I have been doing monthly discussions for a year now. I had useful comments on flash writing. As I showed that the activity was not popular, I had an advice to ask students about how I can make it easier. Another suggestion on this activity was to offer a topic or two. Now I look forward to revise the way for flash writing.
- I felt that my presentation went fairly well. Following the presentations, several people mentioned to me that I was able to answer many of their questions about my research before they had a chance to ask, which tells me that at least my information was clear and useful. As always, I wished I'd had more time, though I understand it's my responsibility to manage the time I was given. I hope that I was able to make the nature of my research clear. I appreciated the advice I received from Yoshi and Juanita about trying to tighten the focus of my research questions; after discussing this advice with my advisor, I may make some changes to my approach.
- All the participants' comments and suggestions were helpful to make new activities or revise past activities. In order to make the activities which motivate students and improve their English abilities, I need to talk about activities with my students; what things they are interested in or what things they want to talk about in English.

(2) How did you feel about other participants' presentations?

- I thought all presentations taught me something, whether it was dealing with problems in the research, or how to present data in the most effective way, or again if the research was something I knew little about. One thing I realised is that we need to be careful how we choose to present our research. Although using

Powerpoint can be useful, powerpoint presentations should be more of an outline, otherwise they sometimes distract from what people are saying.

- Each presentation gave me suggestion on what to change in my AR. For example, discussion on Kyonmi's final test made me think about my own final assessment. This semester, I had my students do short presentation on their essays using their outline sheet. After her presentation, I decided to have a similar type of presentation twice so that the test will be integrated to regular class work.
- I enjoyed the other participants' presentations, particularly those whose AR reporting I don't usually get to see. I'm familiar with Jess and Megumi's work, as we meet often for the university group's AR sessions, but for many participants (Satsuki, Takayuki, Jun) this was the first time I've been able to see them present their larger research projects in such detail.
- I was able to review how to write a paper and how to write a Literature Review. It is useful and necessary for me to listen to or read the valuable and important ideas of famous language scholars used in other participants presentations. I think I need to learn facts found through long-term research in order to improve my way of teaching.



(3) How would you like to conduct your AR from now on?

- As I mentioned during my presentation, my AR focus for next semester will be on conversation analysis for my research.
- I would introduce critical thinking. According to all the advice I got, I will research more about the references and modify my rubric. As is written above, I would like to ask students for better flash writing activity, since they are doing it once a week during summer, too.
- I continue to struggle with the difficulty of conducting action research in PUT, a class that doesn't allow me to work with the same groups of students from week to week. However, now that the bulk of my data collection for the thesis is complete, I will be able to try some new methods of conducting "micro" AR cycles within each week, a strategy suggested by the advisors during our planning session in April. I'm fortunate to be working here at NUFS where I have access to the advisors; their help has been invaluable. I'm looking forward to continuing to explore AR within PUT as my thesis begins to take shape.
- Referring to the participants' comments, I'd like to revise the activities and handouts I made in order to produce activities which motivate and excite students. I would also like to study effective ratios of in-put and out-put activities.

Next Workshop (scheduled)

Date: September 15, 2018, 10:30-14:30, 14:30-17:00

Venue: NSC College, Room 31

Presenter: Brad Deacon (Nanzan University)

Title: "Tools for Active Learning in the EFL Classroom"