

Action Research Monthly Report February 2007

Name ** ***

Wake-up Activities

Communication game "Information Plus" Reproduction Part 2

Communication Chain

Students are to be divided into groups of four. They are to make a small circle and try the following communication loop. It is a memory race.

How much do you think our students can load on their ship? I am sure it will give you a surprising result. Why don't you try in your class?

Example:

Key letter "C"

Student 1: The ship came loaded.

Student 2: With what?

Student 1: The ship came loaded with chocolate.

Student 2: The ship came loaded.

Student 3: With what?

Student 2: The ship came loaded with chocolate and cheese.

Student 3: The ship came loaded.

Student 4: With what?

Student 3: The ship came loaded with chocolate, cheese and cars.

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Use of Animation Video and TV animation

TV Program

- Miffy (Miffy and Her Friends)

NHK Education Channel (from 7:25 to 7:30, 5:00 to 5:05, Monday through Friday)

Wonderful listening practice for the students

- 1 Listening
- 2 Questions and Answers

- Spirited Away (Video, English version)

Almost all the students have seen it at the movie theater or on video, and are quite familiar with the story. Therefore, we can set only small portion of the story as the material for listening.

- 1 Let them watch a part of the video.

- 2 Questions and Answers in English
- 3 Let them think about what English words are used in the movie.
- 4 Checking with the subtitles (with closed caption decoder)
- 5 Repetition

For your reference:

My favorite TV programs

- Bewitched (NHK BS2 Monday 9:00 ~)
- Full House (NHK Education Channel Tuesday 19:00~)
- Fugitive (NHK BS2 Thursday 9:00~)
- Mentors (NHK Education Channel Thursday 19:00~)
- Doctor Who (NHK BS2 Tuesday 23:00~)
- Desperate Housewives (NHK BS2 23:00~)

Reproduction with their own words.

Without prior notice, after completing the following text in class, they are to be given the handout with blanks. They are to try to fill the blanks with their own words in English. The outline of their writing should be based on the original text.

Text

A Story Behind "Titanic"

Behind the success of "Titanic" there was another success story in Japan--the story of a Japanese woman, Natsuko Toda. You often see her name on the screen when you go to see foreign films. Her translations are often the Japanese subtitles we see on the screen. She is a subtitle writer.

Toda does the subtitles for some of the biggest Hollywood motion pictures such as "E.T." and "Apollo 13." She manipulates scripts in her own creative way.

In the following interview, she talks about her career as a subtitle writer. Let's learn about her work.

Interviewer: Motion pictures are almost never dubbed for showings in Japanese movie theaters.

Toda: Right. In other markets, foreign films are usually dubbed into their own languages. I think Japan is probably among the few countries where the audience wants subtitles.

Interviewer: Do you see any reasons for that?

Toda: First of all, everybody can read. And we want the real thing. We want to hear the real voices. Leonardo DiCaprio has a fantastic voice. Nobody wants to hear that dubbed over.

Interviewer: What is the most difficult thing about translating movie scripts?

Toda: To write the subtitles, you have to create. You are always condensing, cutting, omitting, deciding which part you should put in the subtitle.

Handout for the students

A Story Behind "Titanic"

Class 1 - Number name _____

Behind the success of "Titanic" there was another success story in Japan--the story of a Japanese woman, Natsuko Toda.

Please introduce her to other people who doesn't know her at all.

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Complete the following interview. You are to play the role of Toda-san.

Interviewer: Motion pictures are almost never dubbed for showings in Japanese movie theaters.

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| Toda: |
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Interviewer: Do you see any reasons for that?

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| Toda: |
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Interviewer: What is the most difficult thing about translating movie scripts?

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| Toda: |
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