

## NUFS Workshop 2007

### *Newsletter No. 13*

#### Final Presentation

**Date:** March 29, 2008, 14:30-18:00

March 30, 2008, 9:00-12:30

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

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

**The number of participants:** 13

**Abstract:** Each participant made their final presentation on their action research report. Then they had a discussion.



#### 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?

- Yes, I really appreciate this opportunity. Many ideas given by other teachers helped me to improve my class. Also, it was helpful to share the same kinds of problems as I have with other teachers. Their energy encouraged me to go forward.
- Yes, the action research project helped me to improve my skills by situation analysis. That is to say looking at the situation and noticing problems that exist.
- It has been two years since my first action research project started. At the very beginning, monthly reports put me under great pressure. I looked back in those days to find myself bothered so much. However, the more I did all kind of things to try to modify my lessons, the more I could get my students' positive reaction. It turned out to be very fun. It is true that taking a lot of time to prepare for each lesson, however, it was more rewarded than I had expected, not only for students but for myself. Monthly, not periodically, reports give me a powerful motivation to improve my teaching skills. If this project were held in much longer intervals, I would goof off my duty.

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

- With this monthly report and presentation, I could have good chances to reflect my lessons objectively in the light of other participants' presentation. I have also been encouraged by other teachers. Sometimes it was tough for me to give a presentation when I had nothing special to report within a short interval. Even in such a situation, I kept in mind trying to find out what I had done in my classes. What is more important and



encouragement is other teachers' existence. "I am not the only one who is struggling for my daily lessons." Every time I attend this action plan's presentation, I impressed with other teachers' effort in their situation and learn a lot from them.

- The project which forced me to make a report and make a presentation encouraged me greatly. The opportunity to speak English may brush up my English.
- The presentation and handouts of participants were very useful for me to create new teaching style.

**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?**

- It was helpful. In fact, those monthly workshops let me show new way of teaching and different aspects of giving instructions to teach. Though all the ideas had not been implemented in my class, I could get some hints in each workshop. To name one, I would choose "Suzann's Reflective Portfolio." Portfolio idea was very new to me and I got this idea to introduce my lessons so as for students to reflect what they had done during classes and keep their investments during the classes in mind. At first I failed to understand the idea fully, it gave me one good method to expand my teaching skills.
- Yes. Everything was very new to me. The instructors gave me a lot of hints to me. The most effective thing was that I could use the hints soon in my English classes.
- I could get a lot of hints and new ideas from the instructors. I could make good use of them and put them to use in my classes.



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

- This is a difficult question. Let me see. I have one thing to be noticed; teachers who have similar topics would possibly have more time to discuss with their own lesson plans. As for me, Ms. M.K and Ms. M.K have almost the same topic and we have been communicating with each other. Soon we began to realize what should be done next and study further about our project.
- It was useful, but sometimes I felt like listening to junior high school teacher's presentation. It must be helpful to make our approach more communicative.
- The content of this action research is very nice. I can't find out any suggestion to improve. I think younger teachers should participate in this course, so you should advertise to them more.
- Most of the activities and topics were for senior high school levels. I wish there are more topics suited for JHS.

We enjoyed this study trip to Irago very much. The grilled big clams were so delicious!

We'll make a booklet on action research report of NUFS Workshop 2007. I hope more teachers will join our workshop and action research program next school year. Please send the application form by fax for your registration for NUFS Workshop 2008. Thank you.