

NUFS Workshop 2014

Newsletter No. 4

Workshop in August

Date: August 2-3, 2014, 14:30-17:00, 9:00-12:00

Venue: Green Hotel Sangane (Higashi-hazu, Nishio)

Advisors: Kazuyoshi Sato, Nancy Mutoh (NUFS),
Robert Croker (Nanzan University)

Title: Mid-term presentation on action research

The number of presenters: 19



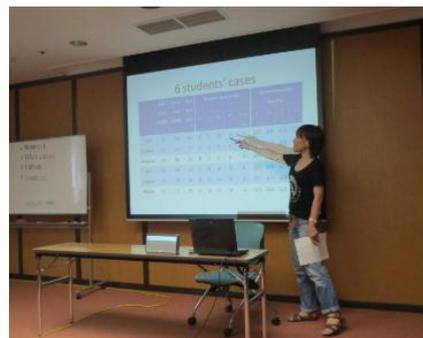
1) What did you learn from this two-day workshop?

- I learned too much to write here, but mostly I learned about data collection.
- Students in the TESOL program are implementing what they have learned and improving their lessons. They also made good presentations. I'd like to use some of their strategies.
- That was my first time to do a big presentation. Actually I made a lot of efforts to collect data and to be prepared for the presentation. I learned that collecting data was very different from presenting data to have everyone understand it easily. I should have chosen some points to present what I wanted to say. 15 minutes was too short for me to present all what I did. I learned less was better than more.
- I could see what others are doing in their research. I could have a vision for the future. And meeting with other members or teachers was really valuable. I could ask many things not only the research but also the way how to deal with own learning and work or family at the same time and the facts of other schools that I had no chance to listen.
- I'm a high school teacher, but in this workshop I could learn how English education is like in other types of schools. (university, junior high, elementary, and language schools.) It helped me to understand the overview of English education. This workshop gave me another perspective to look English education.
- I've learned a lot from this workshop. Especially I've learned how to collect and analyze the qualitative data (students' comments) from the presentations. In order to get good qualitative data, we need to make good questionnaire. Ms. Morioka (Takemi) is good at making questions for her research questions, which I want to use for my students. I was also very impressed with Mr. Mauricio (Lem)'s analysis of students' comments, which was very informative and helpful. He showed us how we can categorize students' comments and put labels on them. Lastly, I've learned from Ms. Caceres (Hazelynn) how to edit the video clip of students' performance tests. Showing long clips was not good. I want to and I have to edit my video clips like her.



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

- I would like to collect data not only from questionnaires but also interviews to understand the class better.
- I learned a lot in the process to reflect what I did in class. It is very important to get feedback from my students and reflect what I do. I would like to continue to do what I do now and make it better. I hope I can see that my students will make a progress in learning English.
- As for the teaching practice, I'm going to work on the improvement based on the suggestions I got from the participants. Mine is quite poor AR report compared to the ones' of those who are in the course right now. However, now that I have already graduated, doing AR itself is valuable. When I have a chance to publish, I'm going try my best referring the best work here. So far, I'm happy about what I'm doing.
- I got good suggestions from other participants. I also noticed I forgot what I learned in the TESOL course before, so I'd like to review the textbook. To motivate students is very important. I will make fun activities or use interesting reading materials.
- I would like to try new activities or tasks and give students more scaffolding in the class. I would like to conduct more student-centered class and assess students in multiple perspectives.



3) Other comments

- I would like to ask everyone to try to minimize the amount of paper. I hope both side printing will be the standard for this AR group.
- This time we were divided into two groups, therefore we can't see other members' presentation. BUT! I could ask other group members couple of questions on the bus. I was so happy to know some good ideas from Michael. Also I could confirm some ambiguous points on Terumi's reports while quick reading her papers. Terumi and Michael taught me very gently...It is good for me to get some knowledge and advice from another group members in short time. Small talk brought me huge wisdom.
- I was very impressed with Mr. Hasegawa's presentation and was encouraged by his trials and results. He changed his teaching style completely and has succeeded in conducting communicative English class in all English. I've confirmed that well-organized handouts and teaching procedure based on the theory can surely make our class communicative. What's more, his efforts and passion reminded me of my days when I started to change my English classes with the advice of Sato sensei. Now I'm excited to make a restart with my big passion and curiosity. Thank you, Kenji sensei.
- I had a great time sharing from small stuffs in daily life to a grander cause 'teaching English' with so many great teachers. We are in the same track and heading to the same final goal, so we have so many things we can understand each other. When I come back to my school, it is rare that I can find a teacher who has a strong will and passion for teaching English. They are nice, though. So I really appreciate that NUFS gives me a chance to learn a lot from courses and classmates.



- I really enjoyed this study trip. Everyone who joined this trip has a lot of energy and each presentation encouraged me to learn more to improve my English class. I could know how other teachers had tried hard in the first semester and I was ashamed that I wasn't doing enough. This school trip made me feel that "I can do more!" At the beginning of this year, I wondered if I could do classes communicatively and I was very scared about it. However I heard a lot of teachers trying and succeeding in that kind of classes. It's very important for teachers to encourage each other!
- It was so much fun and refreshing to spend time with wonderful teachers playing ping-pong, singing at karaoke, and chatting at night. Thank you very much!

<Comment from Advisor (Robert)>

We truly are a learning community learning from each other: that many of us are doing great research, but we are relying too much on questionnaires to students to ask their opinions. We also need to gather other, more objective types of data, such as samples of students' written work and recordings of their interaction.

Workshop in September (Scheduled)

Date: September 13, 2014, 10:30-14:30 (Workshop), 14:30-17:00 (AR session)

Venue: NSC College, A-31

Title: "Unmasking the structure of Rapport"

Instructor: Brad Deacon (Nanzan University)

Please send an email to Chihaya (chiha143@nufs.ac.jp) to participate in this workshop.