

Teacher Development: The Five Circles

A summary by Chapter President, Dr. David Shaffer, of his July 10 Chapter monthly meeting presentation.

One of the most important things for an English language teacher to do is to pursue teacher development. Though this is an essential in the ELT world, and the teaching field in general, it is often overlooked by the teacher because they are not aware of the benefits of teacher development or they are not aware of how to go about teacher development. The following give an overview of what teacher development is and the many possibilities available for improving oneself as a language teacher.

What Is Teacher Development?

Teacher development, also referred to as professional development, is anything that a person does to improve themselves for the teaching profession. It is for practicing teachers, but it is also for anyone aspiring to become a teacher. It is very much for the new, inexperienced teacher, but it is just as much for the older, veteran teacher. Teacher development is for every teacher and it is needed by every teacher because of that inborn desire that we all have to be the best that we can be, and because of the duty that every teacher has to their students to make them the best that they can be.

Teacher development may be provided by the teacher's school, government agencies, private institutions, and professional ELT associations. It may be provided at home, at school or away from both, but it is ultimately the responsibility of the teacher to ensure that they are getting the teacher development that they need. Teacher Development can be categorized into five areas: what one does on their own, with their students, with their colleagues, with their administration, and with their teachers' organization – five circles. What a teacher can do, large and small, for self improvement in each of these circles will be presented in the following.

The First Circle: You

Self-reflection is a very basic, yet very effective method of improvement. Reflect on your goals, teaching philosophy, and classroom achievements and shortcomings. Deeper self-reflection may be obtained by keeping a reflective journal. You may compile a teaching portfolio, a "photo album" of your teaching life. It is important to deepen one's knowledge of English and polish one's teaching voice, including speed, loudness, enunciation, and content. You should also read ELT materials – articles, journals, and books.

The Second Circle: You and Your Students

Learning more about your students will go a long way to improving your classroom performance. Make new teaching materials; try out new teaching methods. Do a student news analysis; carry out action research.

The Third Circle: You and Your Colleagues

With your fellow teachers you can discuss ELT concepts, exchange teaching materials, or observe each other teach. You may act as a mentor, join a teacher development group, or form a critical friendship.

The Fourth Circle: You and Your School

It is important that you become an integral part of your school. Participate in meetings and workshops. Organize school events. Make suggestions to the administrators that would improve the quality of education.

The Fifth Circle: You and Your Profession

It is important that you become an active member of an ELT organization such as Korea TESOL to participate in workshops, seminars and conferences, and to present at such events. You may go on to writing articles, publishing a research paper, and even your own book!

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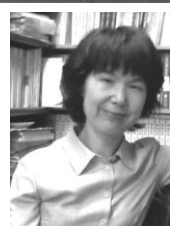
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■ Joining Korea TESOL

Who May Join

English teachers of any level or nationality are eligible to join KOTESOL. We welcome native and non-native speakers teaching at primary schools, secondary schools, language institutes, colleges and universities and other organizations. University students may join as student members.

What Memberships Types Are Available?

- **Individual 1-Year Membership** (40,000 won)
- **Undergraduate Student 1-Year Membership** (20,000 won, Documentation required)
- **International 1-Year Membership** (60,000 won / US\$60.00)
- **Lifetime Membership** (400,000 won)

How to Join

Apply by using the online membership form at <http://www.kotesol.org/>. Click on "Join KOTESOL" at the left and follow the directions.

Paper membership application and renewal forms are available at Chapter meetings for those who prefer making a hard-copy application.

Membership payment may be made by:

- Bank transfer to **KOTESOL**, Korea Exchange Bank account number: 630-006952-841
- Payment to the Chapter Membership Officer at a Chapter Meeting

English Zones for English Learning

English Zones can be great places for students to improve their English and communication skills outside of the normal confines of the English language classroom. Recognizing this potential, we decided to open a zone of our own at Mokpo National University (MNU) in 2009. What follows is a description of some of our objectives, our facilities and program, the people who make it happen, and some of the challenges we faced.

What Are Our Objectives?

The English Zone project was made possible with the help of funding from the National Research Foundation of Korea (www.nrf.go.kr) as part of the Education Empowerment Projects. One main reason for initiating our project was, of course, to help students improve their language skills. However, English Zones are also places where students can improve confidence, a lack of which is often a key impediment to learning! MNU students do so through genuine interaction with native speakers and other second language learners in the zone. Exploration of culture and the development of creativity through participation in our activities and events are two other important objectives.

How About Our Facilities?

To achieve these objectives, there are a number of resources available to students at the MNU English Zone. Our space contains a comfortable lounge, library/reading area, Internet corner, DVD room, and mini-cinema, and



it has a selection of books, magazines, DVDs, dramas, and even games, all made available to students free of charge.

Whether alone or in groups, students enjoy spending time in the English Zone because of the fun setting and relaxed atmosphere. As our resources and activities accommodate various skill levels and personality types, and, of course, are not graded, it is also a safe zone.

What's Our Program Like?

Our program changes every semester depending on the teachers on staff. However, it usually consists of two main types of classes: consultation/free talking classes and content, or English-medium classes. The classes, which are purely elective, are usually small and friendly.

A summary by Jocelyn Wright, Mokpo National University, of the presentation she gave at the July 10 Chapter Meeting.

Some examples of content classes given last spring include storytelling, two-minute presentations, guitar classes, art activities, world languages, and sports talk. Besides classes, there are also regular movie screenings, featuring different genres of movies, a number of creative contests, and fun cultural events or special activities. Recent examples of the former include St. Patrick's Day,



April Fool's Day, and Easter celebrations, a free Hugs Campaign, and an end-of-session party, while examples of the latter include a short story

contest, a role-play contest, a photo and caption contest, and an ice-cream eating contest. Not only do students have countless opportunities for fun and learning, but instructors also have the chance to teach subjects that interest them or make use of special talents or skills.

Who Makes It Happen?

Because our English Zone project is quite ambitious, to ensure smooth functioning, a strong and supportive administration, a dedicated and enthusiastic coordinator, kind staff capable of managing the use of our facilities and resources, interesting and dynamic teachers, and of course, eager students are all necessary.

What Were Some of the Challenges?

Some of the challenges we faced when opening and at the beginning of the new semester were getting the word out and getting people in. Throughout the semester, there were also fluctuations in attendance due to activities such as "membership training" and exam periods. Planning a program that was both manageable for staff and pleasing and accessible to most students was also difficult, as was determining how to encourage participation from students required by professors to visit our English Zone.

It is quite difficult to assess the degree of success of the English Zone at this stage since the project is still so new and there were no benchmarks. However, the increasing number of students using the facilities over time, the quantity of repeat students, and the display of positive attitudes seem to indicate that the project has been a success so far. Perhaps you would like to initiate a similar project and see the results for yourself?

Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL Sept. Chapter Meeting

- Time: Saturday, September 4, 2010, 2:00 p.m.
- Place: Chosun University, Main Building (*Bon-gwan*), 2nd Floor, Room 2123.

Schedule

2:00 pm: Registration and Welcome

2:30 pm: Presentation 1: ***Creating a Sizzling Language Classroom Environment***
Grace Wang (Yonsei University; Seoul Chapter Advisor)

3:20 pm: Snack Break

3:40 pm: Presentation 2: ***Making Your Own Class Materials***
Ingrid Zwaal (Jeonju National University of Education; Jeonju North-Jeolla Chapter)

4:20 pm: Teaching Idea & Activity Share-time: Everyone

Bring your activities/ideas to share with us (about 5-10 min. each)

5:00 pm: Announcements

Chapter Business: Old or New

Book Drawing

Closing

(Admission is free. Membership is encouraged.)

Upcoming Chapter Events

October 2. Chapter Outreach Workshop

Suncheon National University, Suncheon

1. Sara Davila: *Songs and Chants*
2. Isabel Lee: *Adapting to ELT in Korea*
3. Brian Thomas & Faith Fishley:
Videotaping for Reflective Teaching
- 4 & 5. To Be Announced

November 13. Chapter Monthly Meeting

Presentations to Be Announced

December 11. Student Symposium

Student Perspectives on ELT in Korea

Upcoming KOTESOL Events

September 11, 2010.

Daejeon-Chungcheong Chapter and Multi-media & CALL SIG Mini-Conference
Woosong University, Daejeon

October 17, 2010.

KOTESOL Annual Business Meeting
Sookmyung Women's University, Seoul

October 16-17, 2010.

2010 PAC-KOTESOL Internat'l Conference
Advancing ELT in the Global Context
Sookmyung Women's University, Seoul
Pre-registration: August 1 – September 30, 2010

November 15, 2010.

The 15th Annual Jeonju-North Jeolla Chapter KOTESOL Drama Festival
Team Registration Deadline: October 11, 2010
Jeonju University, Jeonju

September Chapter Meeting Presentation Preview

What makes an English language classroom environment sizzle? In her interactive workshop, **Grace Wang** will examine seven interrelated principles drawn from language learning literature: (a) safety, (b) sound relationship, (c) sequence and reinforcement, (d) immediacy, (e) teamwork, (f) intrinsic motivation, and (g) interlanguage development. These seven principles seem to hold the keys to unleashing the motivated, self-driven energy for learning within everyone's language classrooms.

How often have you thought that you needed an exercise, activity, game, or something to supplement the material in your coursebook but didn't know exactly what you needed or how to go about preparing it? **Ingrid Zwaal** will introduce the variety of options available to the language teacher and show how to prepare them, taking into consideration the age of the learners, their language proficiency level, and their ability to create motivation and facilitate learning.