

Fun and Games – Every Child’s Language Learning Preference

By Jacob Boer

It is human nature to strive to push the limits of our abilities and compete with one another. As adults, we seem to do everything possible from racing dogs across the arctic to betting billions in the stock market. The most clever and the most capable amongst us are rewarded and thrive, and those that do not are left behind. The proven way for people to succeed in our competitive world is to play and practice in safe, controlled simulations before being confronted by do-or-die situations. Humans have always instinctively known and been like this. Every child who has ever existed has enjoyed playing games because it gives them practice for the real world.

With that understood, what makes for a fun and interesting game? From an ESL teacher’s perspective, the “best” kind of game is one where the child practices and commits to memory the lesson’s target vocabulary and expressions. However, children do not care about textbook lesson objectives. If children were capable of being motivated by their own academic advancement, then you could leave a child alone in a room with a book or resource that had everything they needed to know and go catch up on some sleep. Children do not want to study, and they do not want to be lectured at, but they do want to play and compete with each other. For most children their goal every day is to just have fun. Learning English is just the annoying thing they sometimes have to do to win at the game.

In this KOTESOL talk, we will examine what children want from a game and how a teacher’s objective can also be met while playing it. We will talk about some classic language, board, and card games, maybe from our childhoods, and see if these proven classics can be adapted to the ESL classroom.

The Presenter

Jacob Boer came to South Korea four years ago looking to try something different in life. Like many



who came before him, he only thought he would only stay one year. But he has found Korea to be a very exciting land with many great opportunities. Jacob currently teaches at the elementary school level with E.P.I.K. (English Program in

Korea) and lectures in special teacher training courses for the Gwangju Metropolitan Office of Education. He also lectures at native teacher training workshops and at orientations for new E.P.I.K. teachers about lesson planning for the elementary school curriculum and PowerPoint use in the ESL classroom. Email: jacobwboer@gmail.com

(This is the first of two presentations scheduled for the June 9, 2012, Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter Meeting. See page 3 for information on the second presentation and its presenters.)

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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).
- **Lifetime Membership** (400,000 won). Student and International Membership options also available.

How to Join

Apply by using the online membership form at <http://www.koreatesol.org/>. On the front page, click on "Membership" in the menu, 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 in cash to the Chapter Membership Officer at a Chapter Meeting

The Bimodal Narrative Approach: Delivering Extensive Reading and Listening Experiences to the EFL Classroom

The Bimodal Narrative Approach (BNA) is an approach in development that integrates principles and materials from Extensive Listening and Extensive Reading (ER) with teacher-led and -facilitated skills practice. In East Asian contexts, ER is underutilized in language programs due to its incompatibility with the local teacher-centered norms of education. BNA bridges the gap between traditional and recent perspectives on language learning by moving learners gradually toward an ER experience, linking pedagogic and authentic materials, and providing a rich multi-modal learning experience. The approach was developed for an in-service regional teacher training program at Chonnam National University and was well received by trainee teachers. Participating teachers have subsequently begun to employ the approach in their own high school classrooms. A detailed discussion of BNA will be given with sample activities and an example of how the approach was applied to the graded reader *Billy Elliot*, incorporating its accompanying audio CD and clips from the feature film.

THE PRESENTERS

Michael Rabbidge has taught and trained teachers in South Korea for the past 12 years. He is the head of the Intensive Teacher Training Program at Chonnam National University and holds an MA in Applied Linguistics (TESOL) from Macquarie University. His main research interests are the use extensive reading materials in the EFL context and the code switching practices of non native speaker teachers of English. Email: mikemind@hotmail.com



Nico Lorenzutti has taught and trained teachers in Japan, Canada, and South Korea for over 15 years. He teaches in the Intensive Teacher Training Program at Chonnam National University and is currently a candidate for an MA in Literary Linguistics at the University of Nottingham. His main research interests are the use of popular culture and literary texts in the language classroom. Nico has also translated 6 books from Italian to English for ROH Press. Email: zutti25@hotmail.com



Chapter Members in the News

- May 13. Dr. David Shaffer** attended the 2012 International Conference Committee meeting in Daejeon. He announced that the invited speakers would be plenary speakers Mike Levy, Glenn Stockwell, Scott Thornbury, and Brock Brady, and that the featured speakers would be Frank Boers, Fredricka Stoller, Ken Wilson, Rob Waring, Mary Lou McCloskey, Clara Lee Brown, Kyungsook Yeum, and David Paul.
- May 19-20. Dr. David Shaffer** attended the Seoul Chapter monthly workshop, which this month featured a special workshop of Reflective Practice through Journal Writing conducted by Dr. Thomas S. C. Farrell of Brock University, Canada. Dr. Farrell is a leading authority on Reflective Practice. The next day, Dr. Shaffer participated in an all-day, 9-to-5, Farrell workshop on Reflective Teaching hosted by the Reflective Practice Special Interest Group (RP-SIG).
- May 26.** The 2012 KOTESOL National Conference was held at BUFS in Busan. The scheduled presentations for the day featured two by Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter members:
Nate Kent presented *Jumpstart Your Intensive Language Learning*, his first at the National Conference.
Dr. David Shaffer gave a pecha kucha presentation, *On Language Teaching and Learning: Beliefs and Misbeliefs*. Dr. Shaffer and **Gene Shaffer** served as members of the National Conference Committee.
Lindsay Herron also made the trip to Busan to participate in the all-day conference.
- May 27. William Mulligan**, National Membership Committee Chair, and **Dr. David Shaffer**, Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter President, attended the quarterly KOTESOL National Council meeting held at the Busan University of Foreign Studies (BUFS) in Busan.

Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL June Chapter Meeting

- Time: Saturday, June 9, 2012, 1:30 p.m.
- Place: Chosun University (Gwangju), Main Building (본관), Room 5210.

Schedule

- 1:30 pm:** Registration and Welcome
- 2:00 pm:** FEATURED PRESENTATION 1:
The Bimodal Narrative Approach: Extensive Reading and Listening
 Michael Rabbidge & Nico Lorenzutti (Chonnam National University)
- 2:50 pm:** Refreshment Break
- 3:10 pm:** FEATURED PRESENTATION 2:
Fun and Games: Every Child's Language Learning Preference
 Jacob Boer (Taebong Elementary School, Gwangju)
- 4:00 pm:** **Swap-Shop Session**
 Share your Teaching Ideas, Classroom Activities, and Language Games.
 (Open to All Attendees. Handouts welcomed.)
- 4:30 pm:** Announcements
 Drawing for Prizes
 Closing
- (Admission is free. Membership is encouraged.)

Upcoming Chapter Events

July 14, 2012. Chapter Monthly Meeting

- *Creating Practical and Original English-based Lessons* (2-hour KTT Workshop)
 Tim Thompson (KTT Coordinator; KAIST)

August 11, 2012. Chapter Monthly Meeting

- *Reflective Teaching: Improving the Learning Context.* Allison Bill (Jeonju University)
- *Facebook and English Learning in Korea*
 Jeremy Bissett (Chosun University)

Upcoming KOTESOL Events

October 20-21, 2012

The 20th Korea TESOL Intl. Conference
Perfect Score: Methodologies, Technologies, and Communities of Practice
 Sookmyung Women's University, Seoul

September 8, 2012

Daejeon-Chungcheong Chapter Conference

Upcoming Korea ELT Events

WCSEL-1: The 1st World Congress of Scholars of English Linguistics - Issues in English Linguistics
 June 26-30, 2012; Hanyang University, Seoul

Detecting Structure in Scholarly Discourse

In Conjunction with ACL 2012
 July 12, 2012; Jeju, Jeju-do

2012 KATE International Conference

English Proficiency for All: Narrowing English Gap
 July 6-7, 2012; Sookmyung Women's Univ., Seoul

MEESO 2012 Conference

English Education: From Complexity & Diversity to Stability
 July 14, 2012; Kunkook University, Seoul

ACL 2012: 3rd Workshop on the People's Web Meets NLP: Collaboratively Constructed Semantic Resources & Their Applications to NLP
 July 8-14, 2012; Jeju, Jeju-do

2012 KEES Annual Conference

Bridging the Present and the Future of Communicative Language Teaching
 August 1, 2012; KNUE, Cheongwon, Chungbuk