

For TEC news

To attend the ACTA(Australian Council of TESOL Associations International Conference and a pre-conference Pronunciation Symposium on Monday, July 2 of 2012, I, National KOTESOL President, was heading for Incheon International Airport slided from the middle of my hectic university life and I got four pieces of magnetic Korean traditional mask to give the hosts that I should express my gratitude.

Monday in Cairnes I went out to find the Cairnes Convention center with all the materials including golf bag holding banner stands and book materials publicity booklets and proceedings etc. to set up for publicity of KOTESOL and to attend the pre-conference Pronunciation Symposium of the general theme of '*TESOL as a Global Trade: Ethics, Equity and Ecology*'. The first impression of the convention center is so huge and so low on the big piece of greens that it looks so different from what I have accustomed as if the giant cow lied down on the giant meadow. But I was happy and relieved to see the whole city(quite small with beach and artificial lagoon ) is just right size to walk around( about 30 minutes on foot from my place to convention center) since there seems no public buses near around for me to use.



I felt more responsible to take care of materials for publicity so at the reception I looked for Sarah to request the room to meet people. I arranged my materials in the place(on the ground floor by the big hall) she pointed at but I was the first person and nobody else there. It was a spacious and dark and silent. I turned the light on and arranged all in order and realized that commercial displays are coming in at that time. Anyway I finished .



I joined the pre-conference on the second(first) floor. One thing I feel very different from our conference is they are mostly already registered so not a long line to register on site. Later I learned from Ms Brown who used to be a high school teacher but now works as a manager in Brisbane Board of Education that secondary school teachers are supported by government so they got the pre-registration. Thus all of the attendees look more of experienced educators. On the second day all is held on the ground floor where our display was and people to come to snack and tea and lunch our materials are gone in a moment and I talk with them. After all the materials are gone I use my name card to talk with people.



For this pronunciation symposium there were about 150 people on the second floor while registration was on the ground floor. Each session lasts only 30 minutes. The first session was by Tracey Derwing on the pronunciation instruction in the language classroom, the second one by Helen Fraser on the pronunciation strategy in multicultural class following morning tea and snacks and fruits served. I was again surprised by their way of serving coffee!. We were served in a white chinaware. From 11 to 12: 40 three sessions by Lynda Yates, Le Ling Low and Andy Kirkpatrick presented presentations, out of those three Le Ling Low's explanation of who would be better pronunciation teacher, non-native English speaking teacher or native English teacher(NET), was quite interesting which also reflecting Korean English learning market. Andy's research data drawn from The Asian Corpus of English was exciting as well: for example RU34T?(/Are you free for tea? San Q (Thank you): those are from Hong Kong multilinguals.

Lunch was provided but they were sandwiches which sadly my stomach does not agree with flour, and bread so after I had some bites I had to go out to find Chinese restaurant or Korean restaurant nearby. After lunch for these afternoon sessions all the speakers and participants were all split to their own taste into three discussion rooms of which I was with Low and Kirkpatrick twice and Derwing and Fraser once. As you notice already ACTA organization is quite different from ours by have the digestion or reflection time of morning cramming. I think ACTA one is more digestive like lying cows chewing for complete digestion.

Regarding keynote address by Dr. Tove Skutnabb-Kangas's *Today's Indigenous education is a crime against humanity. MLE(Mother-tongue-based multilingual education as an alternative?* this presentation is very similar to Dr. Robert Phillipson's *TESOL expertise in the empire of English* in message but of course totally different in contents and methods. Both are displaying how (British) English in the past and (American) English in this present exert of their imperialism. Dr. Tove emphasises on language rights by criticizing linguistic genocide and crimes against humanity in education of indigenous/ tribal/ minority: multilingual education. During the discussion it is said that some Australian indigenous students in classroom are asked to solve the problems in English which they do not know at

all. How quickly the indigenous language die. Professor Suresh Canagarajah was asserting very aggressively how English kills Sri-Lanka language. Many Australian scholars like Dr. Jane Simpson, Gillian Wigglesworth, Junaita Sellwood and Ms. Denise Angelo are all representing indigenous language rights. That reminded me that in Nepal English is considered as prestigious while Nepali is stigma as in most small Asian countries this phenomena are not hard to find.

This conference has three different hours of poster sessions so about 19 poster presentations are available to view in Exhibition Hall throughout the conference so attendees freely talk to them and discuss during morning, lunch and afternoon.

I was fortunate and lucky to be in the same restaurant(Dundee's) after all the conference is over. My table was behind Dr. and Mrs. Tove and Robert and they celebrated Mrs Tove's birthday. So I took courage to say congratulations and we got involved her presentation topic. Thus I suggested that Australian government should insert indigenous language as their obligatory subject from kindergarten and English teachers and students should experience some indigenous culture experience to understand indigenous language and culture. She was very happy to hear that and asked about Korea. Our situation is two folded: our Korean writing system is sturdy so strong to keep our language however the flood use of English and English only teaching method is make people to feel subordinate to English: so it is another new style imperialism. Dr. Tove was a very inspiring lady I have ever seen. Dr. Phillipson's presentation ended his historic survey of how English expanded their unethical and unreasonable and secular desire invasion. He presented the example of 'Nordic Declaration' to solve and to think further.

Now I think I understand two mysteries: one is conference title 'TESOL as a Global Trade; Ethics, Equity and Ecology' and why ACTA President sent his concerns to our IOC chair in his email regarding TESOL International and TESOL DOS's bond. The attendee like me understands Dr. Jackson and his worries because general stream of ACTA conference is mostly about English and its imperialism with some exceptions of English proficiency like writing and speaking and reading. Thus at the last session Dr. Jackson passed a motion " *The conference recommends that ACTA supports collaborations throughout Australia among indigenous communities and educators who work with them. These collaboration need to include how indigenous languages can best be used in different schools* "

As a conclusion I think this conference is very successful and positive to take a great care of their English education really and realistically by having the motion passed. And their ABM and close was very peaceful. To help understand the concerns of ACTA president I would like to add some of his lines to quote here:

A number of delegates from our recent ACTA International Conference expressed their alarm at the apparent shift towards economic, cultural and linguistic imperialism in the stated policy directions of TESOL International, in respect of a [Guardian Weekly](http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2012/jan/10/us-elt-expertise) article from earlier this year which indicated that TESOL International and the US Department of State have instigated a new partnership to "promote more aggressively US ELT skills and expertise" ('US launches global push to share ELT skills', 10/1/2012: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2012/jan/10/us-elt-expertise>).

According to the article, the partnership between TESOL Int. and the US government will seek "to build a 'multi-sector consortium', supported by academic institutions, non-government organisations and the private sector", and that TESOL International "is committed to expanding the reach of US ELT providers." The quote from the TESOL International spokesperson, John Segota, seemed designed to reassure British readers that TESOL International will not impinge on the British Council's territory in terms of exporting ELT resources, programs, teachers, etc., but that they will be adopting a similar model.

Members of our (non-U.S.) affiliate are very concerned by the implications of this new direction for what is meant to be our "international" organisation, and have called for the Australian Council of TESOL Associations to immediately sever ties with TESOL International.

Lastly but not least I would like to thank all of our KOTESOL members for their supports and hope that each and every member enjoys every moment of the precious life. Thank you.