

Teaching Figurative Language

By Cara Scott

Can language be taught without the introduction of culture? Teaching figurative language such as metaphors can be challenging even within a student's native language; for second language learners, it can feel like an impossible task. This does not mean that teachers and learners should feel discouraged. The English language is very idiomatic, and everyday speech is often filled with figurative expressions such as idioms and metaphors. Some research has shown that raising metaphor awareness is beneficial to English learners' sensitivity to figurative language.

How can we, as teachers, approach teaching figurative language in the classroom? This

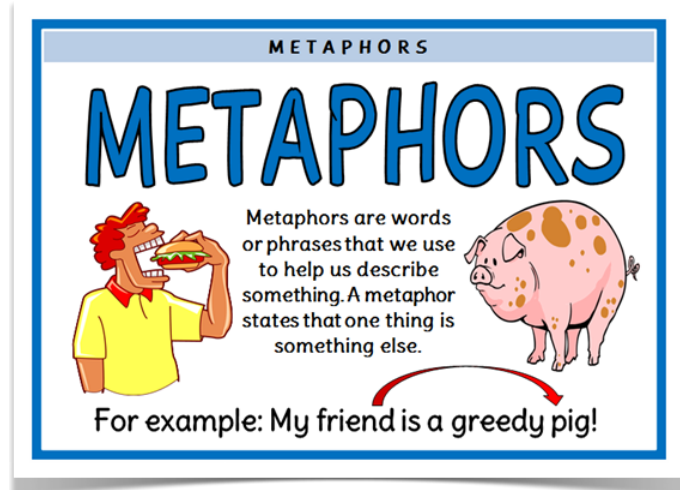
workshop will strive to bring together a collaboration of minds to address this question. Participants will come together and discuss approaches to introducing metaphors and other figurative language in the classroom.

THE PRESENTER

Cara Scott was born and raised in Washington State, in the United States and attended Central Washington University. She has lived and worked in South Korea since 2012, teaching students ranging from elementary to university. For the past two years, Cara has worked at Chonnam National University in Gwangju City. Currently, she is researching the effect of extensive reading and English literature on EFL learners.



Cara will present on teaching metaphors and other figurative expressions at the June 10th meeting of the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter of KOTESOL at Gwangju National University of Education (Room 811).



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- **Regular 1-Year Membership:** 50,000 won.
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How to Join: Apply by using the online membership form at <http://www.koreatesol.org/>. On the front page, click on "Join KOTESOL" in the menu, and follow the directions.

Alternately, paper membership application and renewal forms are available at Chapter meetings for those who prefer making a hard-copy application with Chapter assistance.

Membership payment may be made by:

- Bank transfer to **KOTESOL:** KEB-Hana bank account number 299-890069-83204.
- Payment in cash to the Chapter Membership Officer at a Chapter Meeting.

Thinking Critically about Critical Thinking

With Dr. David Shaffer

Critical thinking is an ELT buzzword that has been around for more than two decades, yet are we confident that we fully understand it? Explanations are often opaque and perplexing, but this Halvorsen (2005) definition seems both simple and clear:

To think critically about an issue is (a) to consider that issue from various perspectives, (b) to look at and challenge any possible assumptions that may underlie the issue and (c) to explore its possible alternatives.

Teachers may neglect trying to incorporate critical thinking into their lessons, considering it too difficult to deal with, which usually arises from not fully understanding the concept or not fully understanding how to present it to students. However, "research on critical thinking shows that it not only can be taught but must be taught" (Schmidt, 2016). As educators, we should help our students develop this skill by providing them with activities that require the use of critical thinking and by providing them with strategies to develop this skill.

Not only can critical thinking be taught, it can be practiced and refined. Here is some practical advice:

- Examples of critical thinking are not enough – students need to engage in critical thinking.
- There needs to be deliberate practice to master the skill. This includes full concentration, exercises aimed at improving the skills, engaging in increasingly difficult exercises as easier ones are mastered, and guidance and feedback.

- The practice must be repetitive throughout a course.
- Students must practice transferring critical thinking skills to other contexts.
- Students must eventually become aware of the actual idea of critical thinking, including its terminology.

In this collaborative workshop, we will work in small groups to create an activity that effectively incorporates critical thinking. The aspect to be taught and the student age/proficiency level will be given to each group. For example:

- Teaching Point: Making Requests
- Elementary School, grades 3-4
- Proficiency Level: Beginner

Groups will be given about 12 minutes to create their activity and then will describe it to the whole group. Groups will then exchange their activities/tasks and try to improve upon the original activity or create another activity altogether in about 12 minutes. These results will then be presented to the whole group.

THE FACILITATOR

David Shaffer is a longtime member of KOTESOL and longtime resident of Korea. His career has been spent as a professor of English at Chosun University. Dr. Shaffer's main interests are in ELT methodology, applied linguistics, second language acquisition, teacher training, and professional development. He is Chapter VP as well as KOTESOL 1st VP and Publications Chair.

Dr. Shaffer will lead this collaborative workshop on incorporating critical thinking into EFL lessons at the June 10 meeting of the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter of KOTESOL at Gwangju National University of Education (Room 811).



Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL June Chapter Meeting

- Time: Saturday, June 10, 2017, 1:45–5:00 p.m.
- Place: Gwangju Natl. University of Ed., Teacher Training Bldg., Room 811 (1st Floor)

■ Schedule: Chapter Meeting, Main Session

- 1:45 pm:** Sign-in and Meet-and-Greet (Admission is free for first-timers. Future membership is welcomed.)
- 2:00 – 2:50 pm: PRESENTATION 1**
Teaching Figurative Language: A Workshop
 Cara Scott (Chonnam National University, Gwangju)
- 2:50 – 3:15 pm: Refreshment Break**
- 3:15 – 4:05 pm: Presentation 2**
Thinking Critically About Critical Thinking
 David Shaffer (Gwangju)
- 4:15 – 4:45 pm: SwapShop Session (Open to All)**
 Everyone is encouraged to share their Teaching Discoveries and Secrets with the group.
 Share your Teaching Tips, Ideas, Classroom Activities, Games, ELT Books, or other Teaching Wisdom. (Handouts welcomed.)
- 4:45 – 5:00 pm:** Announcements / Drawing for Door Prizes / Closing

After-Meeting Dinner at The First Alleyway downtown.

Upcoming Chapter Events

July 8, 2017. Monthly Chapter Meeting.
 Gwangju National University of Education

August 12, 2017. Monthly Chapter Meeting.
 Gwangju National University of Education

Upcoming KOTESOL Events

October 21–22, 2017.
25th KOTESOL International Conference
Why Are We Here? Analogue Learning
in a Digital Era
 Sookmyung Women's University, Seoul

Reflective Practice SIG

Morning Meeting (11:00-12:30)

Non-violent Communication II

Dana Han facilitating.

At Coffee Lab Mujii (Woori Church)