



# The Gwangju Communicator

Newsletter of the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter of Korea TESOL

February 2020

## Break Out the Lego: The Value of Realia in the EFL Classroom

By Judith Alkema

It is “a truth universally acknowledged” that children’s play is inextricable from children’s learning. And we also acknowledge that children learn best in a hands-on, three-dimensional, concrete environment. We enrich our daycare centers with ecologically blameless toys, create colorful elementary classroom learning stations with engaging activities, build entire children’s museums to house interactive exhibits and immersive experiences. Yet as we introduce more abstract thought and concepts to our students, we drop the “real”: toys, objects, artworks – even atlases and globes – are all set aside in favor of two-dimensional images on screens and in textbooks. This presentation will both argue philosophically and demonstrate physically that we should and can bring back realia at all ages and stages of the classroom experience. Practical, easy-to-implement ways to integrate various types of realia will be modeled for elementary, middle school, university, and adult lessons. And, yes, there will be Lego!

### THE PRESENTER

Judith Alkema has been active in ESL, EFL, ESP, and curriculum design since moving to South Korea in 1996, and has written and designed a number of in-house textbooks, including both university and elementary level. She currently teaches Contents Convergence Design at the EAP level at Handong Global University. Her graphic design solopreneurship gives her experience in the relevant fields, and her years of running art, craft, and cultural experience programs in both Korea and Canada help to support her practical, engaging, and results-oriented workshops.



*(Judith Alkema will be presenting on returning to the use of realia in the classroom on February 8 at the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter KOTESOL meeting at Gwangju National University of Education).*

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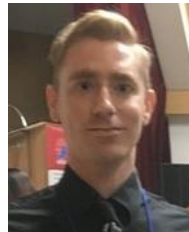
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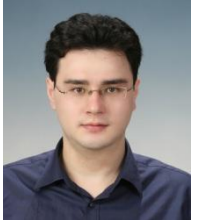
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## ■ Joining Korea TESOL

**Who May Join:** English teachers of any level or nationality are eligible to join. KOTESOL welcomes native and non-native speakers teaching at public schools, language institutes, colleges and universities, and other organizations, as well as tutors. Undergraduate students may join as student members.

### What Memberships Types Are Available?

- **Regular 1-Year Membership:** 50,000 won.
- **Lifetime Membership:** 500,000 won. Student and International Membership options are also available.

**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. Help available at a Chapter meeting.

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 either of these two methods:

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



# Identity, Integrity, and Interaction

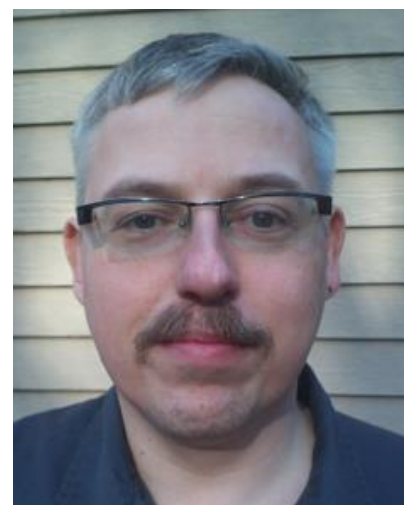
By Bryan Alkema

Based on *The Courage to Teach*, this presentation adapts Parker Palmer's ideas to the EFL environment and includes entry points for turning theory into practice. The basic idea is that we teach best from a strong awareness of our own identity – Palmer's core question is "Who is the self that teaches?" This question is directly related to the issues of cross-cultural teaching and learning and the challenges faced by EFL teachers, who often struggle with a growing awareness that what we do inside the classroom does not always match with what happens outside of the classroom. An important note is that this presentation – like Palmer's own book – is not based on a specific methodology or technique that can immediately be practiced. The question of how we teach is often seen to be of primary importance, but the question of identity (who, not how) is perhaps more fundamental and foundational. Attendees can expect to leave with several important questions to

consider, and some tools and resources with which to develop a deeper awareness of how effective teaching is based upon a strong sense of personal identity

## THE PRESENTER

Bryan Alkema has taught both EFL and ESL to students of all ages and skill levels, in contexts ranging from North America to the Middle East and Asia. He earned a master's degree in applied linguistics from the University of Southern Queensland and has given several presentations at KOTESOL chapter meetings and conferences, as well as in Oman. He teaches English classes at Handong Global University (HGU) in Pohang, and he also serves as the head of the university's EAP section. Bryan has also taught TESOL courses at HGU.



## Play It Again, 쌤!

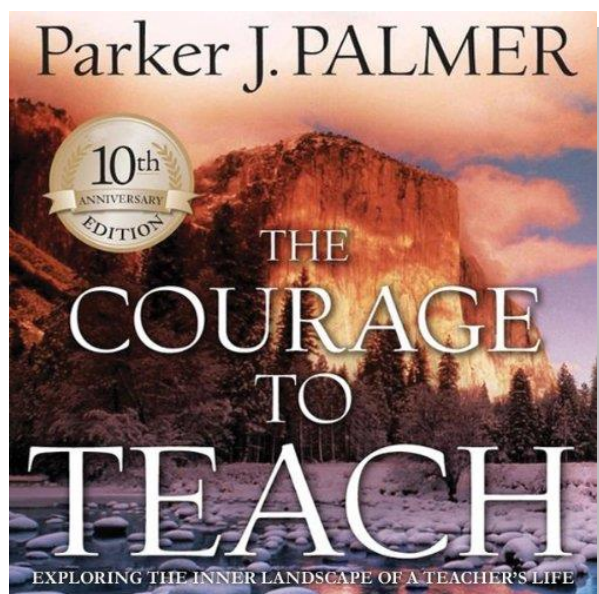
Revisitation, Reprise, Memory, Time

Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL  
Regional Conference 2020



Saturday, March 14, 2020  
Gwangju National University of Education

More information, including Call for Proposals:  
[koreatesol.org/gwangju](http://koreatesol.org/gwangju)



## Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL February Chapter Meeting

- Time: Saturday, February 8, 2020, 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 free for newcomers. Future membership always welcomed.)

**2:00 – 2:50 pm: SESSION 1 – *Identity, Integrity, and Interaction***

Bryan Alkema (Handong Global University, Pohang)

**2:50 – 3:10 pm:** Refreshment & Networking Break

**3:10 – 4:00 pm: SESSION 2**

***Break Out the Lego: The Value of Realia in the EFL Classroom***

Judith Alkema (Handong Global University, Pohang)

**4:05 – 4:45 pm: SwapShop Mini-Presentations** (time permitting). Share your Teaching Ideas, Classroom Activities, and Teaching Wisdom with the group. (Everyone is encouraged to share [up to 5–6 min. each]. Short tidbits are welcomed. Handouts also welcomed.)

**4:45 – 5:00 pm:** Announcements / Door Prizes / Closing

**After-Meeting Dinner at The First Alleyway** downtown

## Upcoming Chapter Events

**March 14, 2010. Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL Regional Conference**

*Play It Again, 쌤! Revisitation, Reprise, Memory, Time*  
Teacher Training Center, GNUE, Gwangju.

**April 11, 2020. Chapter Meeting.**

Teacher Training Center, GNUE, Gwangju.

**May 9, 2020. Chapter Meeting.**

Teacher Training Center, GNUE, Gwangju.

## Upcoming KOTESOL Events

**March 22, 2020.**

**Seoul KOTESOL Regional Conference**

Sookmyung Women's University, Seoul

**May 16, 2020.**

**Jeonju–North Jeolla Conference**

Jeonju, Jeonbuk (Call for Presentations: March 15)

**Reflective Practice SIG**

***Conference Session***

**March 14**

**10:30–12:00, Before Concurrent Sessions**

*At GNUE, Teacher Training Center*

**June 25–27, 2020**

**AsiaTEFL International Conference with Korea TESOL**

Weaving Theory and Practice in ELT in Asia  
Goyang, Gyeonggi (north of Seoul)