



The Gwangju Communicator

Newsletter of the Gwangju-Jeonnang Chapter of Korea TESOL

August 2012

Facebook and Language Learning in Korea

By Jeremy Bissett

Research into how the internet and social networking sites can be used as a language learning tool will continue to be an ongoing process. One of the reasons for this is that today's students are the first generation to grow up with internet technology. Marc Prensky says that students have changed drastically. They are no longer the people our educational system was designed to teach. He calls these students digital natives. He goes on to say that our students today are all "native speakers" of the digital language of computers, video games, and the internet. Richard Katz (2005) conducted research into undergraduate students' uses and perceptions of technology in their learning. He concluded that "freshman students arrive at our institutions with a set of electronic core skills. Such skills include electronic communications, Web surfing, word processing, and video gaming. These young people can make technology work but cannot place these technologies in the service of academic work." Gregor Kennedy et al. (2008) stated that an evidence-based understanding of students' technological experiences is critical in designing higher education policy and practice.

Boyd and Ellison (2007) go on to say that what makes social network sites unique is not that they allow individuals to meet strangers, but rather that they enable users to communicate and make visible their social networks. This can result in connections between individuals that would not otherwise be made. Therefore, according to Harrison and Thomas (2009), one of the main concerns with social networking sites is how computers can transform the way people learn languages using socially oriented

software. They say in order to do this, a framework needs to be established that takes into account learning in social environments, where people are interacting with other, looking at what kinds of interactions are taking place and what they mean in terms of language learning.

From my study I believe it was shown that having foreigner contacts on Facebook leads to an increased use of English, and it is not necessary to travel abroad to gain foreigner contacts. Also, Facebook can be used as a tool to learn English in Korea, and it is a better tool for learning English than Cyworld. However, it is still unclear as to the best way to use Facebook effectively in the Korean classroom. I would like to see more research done in this area.

The Presenter

Jeremy Bissett is originally from the Chicago area in the USA. He received his undergraduate degree in political science and history from Northern Illinois University, and his master's degree in education from Columbia International University. He taught middle school and was a school administrator in America before moving to Korea in 2002. He is now a fulltime ESL instructor at Chosun University, and is currently pursuing his doctorate in applied linguistics at Chonnam National University.



(Jeremy Bissett is scheduled to present on this topic at the August 11, 2012, Gwangju-Jeonnang Chapter Meeting.)

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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 "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**: Korea Exchange Bank account number 630-006952-841
- Payment in cash to the Chapter Membership Officer at a Chapter Meeting

Reflective Teaching: Improving the Learning Context

By Allison Bill

Reflective teaching is not a new concept. However, it seems to be one of the latest buzzwords in ELT. If we are honest with ourselves as teachers, we tend to keep teaching the way we always have, regardless of whether it is working. We may want to change, but we don't know what to change or how to do it. Reflective teaching is one way to confront this dilemma. Reflective teaching involves considering what is happening in the teaching context (in and around the classroom, the students, and the teacher) that might be affecting the teaching and learning process, and seeing what might make a difference.

This presentation will start with an overview of teacher-directed professional development options. Then we will look specifically at one reflective teaching model, which includes different kinds of knowledge that teachers should seek to develop as well as basic characteristics of reflective teachers. Finally, we will brainstorm how to become reflective teachers in the Korean EFL context.

Participants will be encouraged to choose and commit to one reflective teaching goal in order to improve their teaching.

The Presenter

Allison Bill started her own second language learning at age five. She completed her B.Ed. in



Elementary French Education at the University of Ottawa, and her M.A. TESL/TEFL at St. Michael's College in Vermont (USA). She is currently studying for her Ed.D. at the University of Exeter (UK). Allison has taught FSL in Canada, and EFL in France and Korea.

She is a native of Ottawa, Canada. She has lived in Korea since 2000 and teaches at Jeonju University. Email: allison.bill1@gmail.com

Chapter Members in the News

July 14. Dr. David Shaffer gave an academic presentation at the 22nd MEESO Annual Conference. The study he presented was *Journaling for Enhancement of Self-Direction in Language Learning*. This year, the MEESO (Modern English Education Society) conference was held at Konkuk University in Seoul.

August 1. Dr. David Shaffer traveled to the Korea National University of Education outside of Cheongju, Chungbuk, to present at the KEES (Korea English Education Society) 2012 Conference. His Presentation was entitled *Promoting Motivation and Self-Directed Learning Through Language Portfolios*.

About Korea TESOL and the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter

Korea TESOL, also known as KOTESOL, is a professional association of teachers of English to speakers of other languages. The nationwide organization has been serving English teachers, administrators, and interested individuals in the field of English education since 1992. KOTESOL has ten active chapters across the nation and holds annual national and international conferences. The Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter has monthly meetings, usually the second Saturday of the month, which contain two one-hour presentations or hands-on workshops on topics related to English language teaching, such as classroom methodology, activities, and management. Meetings are presently being held at Chosun University in Gwangju. Admission to Chapter meetings is free, but we encourage your participation as a full member. (Membership information is on page 2.)

Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL August Chapter Meeting

- Time: Saturday, August 11, 2012, 1:30 p.m.
- Place: Chosun University (Gwangju), Main Building (본관), Room 5210.

Schedule

- 1:30 pm:** Registration and Welcome
- 2:00 pm:** PRESENTATION 1
Reflective Teaching: Improving the Learning Context
 Allison Bill (Jeonju University)
- 2:45 pm:** Refreshment Break
- 3:00 pm:** PRESENTATION 2
Facebook and English Learning in Korea
 Jeremy Bissett (Chosun University)
- 4:00 pm:** SHORT PRESENTATION
Korean Highlights: Four Decades of History
 Dr. David E. Shaffer (Chapter President; Chosun University)
- 4:30 pm:** Announcements
 Drawing for Prizes
 Closing

(Admission is free. Membership is encouraged.)

Upcoming Chapter Events

August 25, 2012. Chapter Picnic

The First Alleyway/Underground Grocers
 Rooftop. Food, games, and BBQ.
 About 4:00 p.m.

September 1. Suncheon Outreach Workshop

- *Warmers and Downers*
 Tim Dalby (Korea University)

- *Classroom Activities for Young Learners*
 Viva May Cabrerros
- *Extensive Reading through a Personal Goal Project.* Gina Yoo (Jeonju University)
- *Creative Reading and Writing for Children*
 Allison Bill (Jeonju University)
- *Online and Mobile "Flashcards" with Quizlet*
 Phil Owen (Kunsan National 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

November 10, 2012

Jeonju-North Jeolla KOTESOL Drama Contest
 Jeonju University, Jeonju, Jeollabuk-do

Upcoming Korea ELT Events

2012 KAFLE International Conference

Web: <http://www.kafle.or.kr/>
 September 15, 2012; HUFS, Seoul

ALAK 2012 International Conference

Conversation Analysis and Corpus Linguistics
 October 13, 2012; HUFS, Seoul

The 21st Century Association of English Language and Literature Autumn Conference

September 15, 2012; Mokpo University, Mokpo

2012 PKETA International Conference

Perspectives and Directions in Qualitative Research for English Language Teaching
 October 20, 2012; Pukyong Natl. University, Busan