



The Gwangju Communicator

Newsletter of the Gwangju-Jeonnang Chapter of Korea TESOL

April 2014

Yielding the Floor: Tips and Techniques for Student-Centered Teaching

By Lindsay Herron

Paulo Freire once lamented that in the traditional “banking” model of education, the teacher is perceived as the sole possessor of knowledge in the classroom. His job is “to ‘fill’ the students with the contents of his narration” (Freire, 1993), as if they were empty vessels. This isn’t true, however; students come to the class filled with their own experiences, background knowledge, interests, abilities, and beliefs.

Student-centered teaching rejects the traditional model of education in favor of an approach that respects and integrates the knowledge students bring to the classroom. It shifts the teacher from the center of the classroom to the periphery, making him less a “sage on the stage” than a “guide by the side.” Some teachers believe that a student-centered approach can’t be instituted in Korea; that because of the demands of the national curriculum and washback from the university entrance exam, a traditional, teacher-centered class is the most efficient way to dispense knowledge. In this workshop, however, we’ll discuss simple ways to make classes student-centered—without sacrificing exam preparations.

David Paul’s (2004) model of child-centered learning offers an excellent starting place for this. His model includes five steps: *notice*, *want*, *challenge/take risks*, *play/experiment*, *succeed*, and *link*. Teachers, he says, should give students space to notice new words or patterns, and give them a reason to want to know the meaning. After students’ interest is piqued, they can make guesses about the pattern, practice using it, learn from their mistakes, and finally begin to use the

pattern creatively in myriad situations. The pattern ultimately finds a place in their mental model of English.

Teachers can use this model as a framework for making lessons more student-centered. A few simple adjustments to one’s teaching approach can make a world of difference!

THE PRESENTER

Lindsay Herron has been a visiting professor at Gwangju Natl. University of Education in Gwangju since 2008. Prior to that, she taught English on a Fulbright grant at Seogwipo High School in Jeju-do. She has a master’s degree in Cinema Studies from New York Univ., bachelor’s degrees in English and Psychology from Swarthmore College, a CELTA, and the CELTA YL-Extension. She is currently working on a master’s in Literacy, Culture, and Language Ed. from Indiana University-Bloomington.



At the National level, Lindsay is currently Chair of the Membership Committee and has served on the 2012 and 2013 International Conference Committees.

(Lindsay Herron is speaking on teacher talk at the April 12th Gwangju-Jeonnang KOTESOL Chapter meeting at Chosun University.)

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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?

- **Regular 1-Year Membership** (40,000 won).
- **Lifetime Membership** (400,000 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.

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

Utilizing Principles of The Montessori Method in the ESL Classroom

By Seneca Ryan

Dr. Maria Montessori was one of the most widely known educational innovators of the early 20th century. Though the majority of her theories and methods have been confirmed by modern research, they go largely unused in schools and remain revolutionary even by today's standards. In this presentation, we will be discussing the Montessori system of education and specifically two of the fundamental theories, movement and independence, which are central to all Montessori classrooms. We will explore how we can adopt these concepts in our ESL classes and look at a sample lesson, which incorporates both concepts. Though these practices can be used with any age group, we will be focusing mainly on young learners. Participants will come away with an introduction to The Montessori Method and ideas with which to better meet the needs of their students.

THE PRESENTER

Seneca Ryan has been teaching at Chonnam National University in Gwangju since 2012. She received her MA in Education in 2008 with an emphasis in the Montessori pedagogy and continues her research in the history of education and international educational policy and reform. Prior to coming to Korea, she lived and taught in Mexico, Germany, and the USA.



(Seneca Ryan is presenting on using principles of The Montessori Method at the April 12th Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL Chapter meeting at Chosun University.)

KOTESOL: Classroom Observation, Branded Items

KOTESOL branded merchandise is now available for ordering online! Lapel pins in silver and gold are available for 3,000 won each, ceramic mugs for 3,000 won, and travel mugs for 5,000 won. Additional items will debut at the National Conference and will be available online shortly afterwards. KOTESOL members get free domestic shipping; order your KOTESOL branded item today!

KOTESOL members will also soon have access to our new Open Door Classroom Observation Program! Throughout 2014, the Membership Committee will facilitate connections between members who wish to observe classes and members who are willing to let themselves be observed. Starting this month, we're

seeking experienced teachers who would like to join our database of potential hosts. For more information or to volunteer, please go to <http://koreatesol.org>.

Are you giving a presentation at a non-KOTESOL event? Would you like to give some KOTESOL goodies to your audience members? Just send us the details of your presentation (what, where, when, how many attendees), and we'll send you some free KOTESOL pens to hand out! You can request these free promotional pens on the KOTESOL website.

Website for branded item orders and pen requests:
<http://koreatesol.org/content/kotesol-affinitypromotional-items-sales>

Reflective Practice Special Interest Group Meets

Thomas Farrell tells us that Reflective Practice is not a method, but "a way of life" for language teaching professionals like us. It involves systematically examining our beliefs about teaching and learning and what we do in the classroom. There are many ways to reflect: participating in classroom observations, keeping a teaching journal, compiling a teaching portfolio, and engaging in group discussions, among others. Our chapter now has our own special interest

discussion group. We meet most months before the regular chapter meeting. Our next meeting will be at 11:00AM on April 12, 2014, and we'd love to exchange ideas and experiences with you! For venue or other information, please join our Facebook group (Reflective Practice SIG Gwangju-Jeonnam) or you can contact either Jocelyn Wright (Email: jocelynmnu@yahoo.com) or Tyson Vieira (Email: tyson.vieira@att.net).

Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL April Meeting

- Time: Saturday, April 12, 2014, 1:45 p.m.
- Place: Chosun University (Gwangju), Main Building (본관), Room 4211.

■ Schedule

1:45 pm: Sign-in and Meet-and-Greet (Admission is free. Future membership is welcomed.)

2:00 - 2:50 pm: FEATURED PRESENTATION 1
Yielding the Floor: Tips and Techniques for Student-Centered Teaching
 Lindsay Herron (Gwangju National University of Education)

2:50 - 3:10 pm: Refreshment Break

3:10 - 4:00 pm: FEATURED PRESENTATION 2
Utilizing Principles of The Montessori Method in the ESL Classroom
 Seneca Ryan (Chonnam National University)

4:00 Swap-Shop Session

Everyone is invited to Share one of your Teaching Ideas, Classroom Activities, and ELT Games, Books, etc. (Handouts welcomed.)

4:30 pm: Announcements / Drawing for Door Prizes / Closing

- After-meeting dinner at a downtown location.
- Reflective Practice SIG workshop meets at 11:00 a.m. at Café Natalie (near Chosun University)

Upcoming Chapter Events

May 3, 2014

Chapter Outreach: Mokpo-Muan Area, MNU
 Jocelyn Wright (Mokpo Natl. Univ.) + 4 more

Activities in Large University Classes

Matthew Stonham (Chosun University)

Language Learning Strategy Awareness

Ynell Lumantao (Chonnam National University)

May 10, 2014

Chapter Monthly Meeting, Chosun University
Implementing Successful Communicative

June 14

Chapter Monthly Meeting, Chosun University

Upcoming KOTESOL Events

May 31, 2014

KOTESOL National Conference
Change in the Classroom: Principled Pragmatism
 Kyungpook National University, Daegu

October 4-5, 2014

KOTESOL International Conference
Embracing Change: Blazing New Frontiers Through ELT. COEX Convention Center, Seoul

Upcoming Korea ELT Events

ETAK 2014: The 20th ETAK Internl. Conference

Current Trends and Prospects of Communicative Language Teaching in the EFL Context
 June 14; Kongju Natl. Univ., Kongju, Chungnam

2014 KEES Conference

Creativity in Humanistic English Education Assignments and Perspectives
 August 6, 2014; Korea Natl. Univ. of Ed., Cheongju

2014 KATE International Conference

Making Connections in ELT: Form, Meaning, and Function
 July 4-5, 2014; Seoul Nat. University, Seoul

SICOGG 16: The 16th Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar

Rethinking Comparative Syntax
 August 6-9, 2014; Seoul