The Art of Co-teaching: Craft and Considerations

Many public school English teachers in Korea have experienced co-teaching: the pairing of two teachers – in this case, a native English speaker and a non-native English speaker – to teach a class together. Co-teaching, when done well, can result in engaging, energetic lessons; more opportunities for English input and output for students; students’ exposure to a different culture; greater support for students; easy modeling of dialogs or activities by co-teachers; and teachers teaching according to their own strengths (Carless, 2006). But how can co-teaching be implemented effectively? How can co-teachers plan, execute, and reflect on lessons in a positive and insightful way that builds on their respective strengths?

In an ideal co-teaching relationship, the two teachers complement each other. The native English speaker can offer cultural insights and increase students’ motivation to use English. Korean English teachers, on the other hand, might be more familiar with their students’ needs, local textbooks and exams, and government mandates, as well as the difficulties of learning English as a foreign language (Carless, 2006). Research shows that successful co-teaching relationships share certain traits: “sensitivity and goodwill” (Carless, 2006, p. 350) between the teachers; a good interpersonal relationship; selflessness and willingness to compromise; some perceived benefit for each teacher; complementary approaches; and respect for each other’s educational philosophies (Carless, 2006; Carless & Walker, 2006). But what does this look like in practice?

In this panel, experienced co-teachers will share tips and techniques, describing their process and discussing their relationship both in and out of the classroom. In addition, one pair will offer an excerpt from a lesson. Questions from the audience are welcome!

The Demonstration Lesson

This demonstration is based on the sixth-grade textbook lesson “Go Straight and Turn Right.” As an end-of-unit review, students will have already learned and practiced giving directions and will put their learning to use in a gap-share map activity. The co-teachers will model their class routines and explanation techniques.

References

(To be presented on April 14 at the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter KOTESOL meeting. For biographical information on the panelists, see page 3.)
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What Memberships Types Are Available?
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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.
The Art of Co-teaching: Craft and Considerations – The Panelists

Sooa Jung
Ms. Sooa Jung teaches English at Pungam Elementary School in Gwangju. Since 2015, she has taught grades five and six with a big smile and is currently teaching grades three and four with lots of laughter. During her time at Pungam, she has had the chance to work with three different English native-speakers from the United States and South Africa.

Lisa Casaus
Ms. Lisa Casaus is from Albuquerque, New Mexico (USA). She teaches English at Pungam and Unli Elementary Schools in Gwangju. She has been in Korea since August 2016, before which she did office work and started her own illustration business, Baby Onion Says Hello! Presently, she is using her characters to engage her fifth- and sixth-grade students and is storing up experiences and stories for later artistic use. She is always looking for ways to improve as a teacher and communicator.

Ender Waters
Mr. Ender Waters was born in Greenville, South Carolina, but grew up in Melbourne, Australia, a fact that confused him as a child and continues to confuse him as an adult. He holds a BFA in film production and a BA in English from Azusa Pacific University in Los Angeles, California, and has been teaching English in Gwangju at Munhwa Elementary School and Hyodong Elementary School for almost three years.

Chae-In Im
Ms. Chae-In Im teaches at Gwangju Hyodong Elementary School.
Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL February Chapter Meeting

- Time: Saturday, April 14, 2018, 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 – 3:20 pm: PANEL DISCUSSION
   The Art of Co-teaching: Craft and Considerations
   Lisa Casaus, Sooa Jung, Ender Waters, and Chae-In Im

3:20 – 3:40 pm: Refreshment & Networking Break

3:40 – 4:10 pm: CO-TEACHING DEMONSTRATION
   Lisa Casaus & Sooa Jung

4:20 – 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

May 19 (3rd Sat.), 2018. Chapter Conference.
   Using Technology to Improve Classroom Engagement – Aaron Jones
   Students’ Struggles and Society: LesBiTrans Migration, Academic, and Employment Experiences in Korea – Michelle Lee

   Gwangju National University of Education

   Gwangju National University of Education

Upcoming KOTESOL Events

April 21, 2018. Busan Chapter Conference
   Gamechangers in ELT: Creativity, Curiosity, and Innovation in English Language Teaching Strategy
   University of Ulsan, Ulsan

May 12, 2018. National Conference
   Crossing Borders: Korean ELT in the Modern World
   Kangnam University, Yongin, Gyeonggi-do

Reflective Practice SIG
   Morning Session
   Translanguaging
   April 14 (11:00–12:30)
   Before Chapter Meeting
   At Coffee Lab Mujii (near GNUE)