

Kaijun Lin- Philosophy of Teaching

For people who are learning a second language in their life, they want to have an effective language teacher. In my own experiences, I'm a bilingual learner of Chinese and English, living in a multi-culture environment of Hawaii. I understand how and why a second language learner wants to be successful in learning. When I was a second language learner, I do not just want my teacher to provide the input and then do drills practice; it might be good enough on grammar skills or writing skills, but it is not good enough on oral communication skills. In my class, I would rather use a student-centered learning approach than a teacher-centered learning approach. Student-centered learning which is education focusing on the needs of the students. While my pedagogy continues to enhance develop my career, I would explain how second language teaching, and how culture and language learning/teaching.

Second Language Teaching

I believe that learner's motivation of learning, interaction between teacher and student, and material on teaching is important for being a second language teacher. To keep students' motivated, a teacher needs to be more creative in class and make sure student talk time is more than teacher talk time. I believe that teacher's teaching method would affect student's learning motivation. Imagine if you are a language learner and your teacher is bored and apathetic, how would you feel?

To avoid this problem occurring in my class, I will: first, make the material relevant to their lives, and not just based on the text. Then, I would provide different activities for my class, so it can increase my students' interest of learning. For example, I will create a lesson about sending an E-mail to their teacher. I would print out the temple of E-mail, and let my students follow the temple and finish their assignment.

Second, providing pictures/visual aids for lower younger learners, it will help them understand more and give big support for younger learners. For example, the lesson is teaching color to the younger learners. I would use PointPower to show each color of our object. "Apple is Red." Also, through doing different activities during the class, I can check my student's learning process, and make myself closer to my students.

Culture & Language Learning/Teaching

In a language class, culture and language are combined. I think language is one of the aspects of culture. We all share cultures, because no one owns the dominant culture. Culture brings us together and language is the tool for us to communicate. Many people would say, if you want to learn English, the best and fastest way is moving to another English-speaking country. Is it true? I could say it depends on what types of learner you are.

In Japanese 101 class's textbook, the majority of the topic focuses on the target language's culture. Teacher would spend one or two classes teaching about the culture. I think this is a good time for students to understand more about others culture, and most of the time these extra information will tell you what you can do and don't in their culture. Based on my observation, most of the Asian students are unwilling to put their hands up in class. It is not about their shyness, it is related to their culture. So as a language teacher, if you have these students in class, you need to understand why. Especially, in Hawaii

ESL classes, I need to help my students speak up in class. I would give them a mini project called “teach-me project”, this project is about my students teaching me about their culture. So in this way, I can talk to each student individually and build our relationship while we talking. I believe that also could build up my students’ confidence in their communicate skills, because my students are talking about the subjects they know very well. However, their grammar use is incorrect; they still have confidences to speak up in the class.

I will do my best to being a successful Second Language Teacher. We are all learners, doers, and teachers. The teacher is not only about teaching, it is also a learner to find out what I already know. The teacher is a doer, doing is demonstrating that you know it, and teaching is reminding others that they know just as well as you. That way, I will continuously improve upon myself.