

研究分野のキーワード : Discourse Analysis, English Communication Education, Teacher Training Practicums

研究紹介

I am interested in two fields of research.

1. Firstly, I am interested in the structure of the spoken English discourse that Japanese EFL students generate when in conversation with their peers. Too many current English language textbooks focus on getting students to understand language and practice dialogues that are not contextually relevant to the limited use of English that occurs in Japan. English is studied as a subject to be passed: not as a useful tool for communication with others. My teaching methodology focuses on assisting learners to generate their own English conversation texts by using the language that they have already learned in the previous six – eight years of English at grade school. My research then analyses these dialogues for their structural features to discover how they are pieced together to make coherent texts. Who takes responsibility for leading the conversation? What types of conversation-internal stories do learners tell? What are the typical errors made by Japanese learners?
2. Secondly, I am interested in the teaching practicum systems of various countries. A 2012 Health, Labor, and Welfare Ministry survey on quitting found that 48.8% of first time teachers quit their jobs within three years of being hired as teachers. This is an extremely high turnover rate. Among other reasons, including the fact that teaching is a high stress occupation with little monetary reward, it also suggests that teacher-training courses in Japan do not adequately prepare their students for the realities of life as a teacher. Perhaps a related factor is that trainee teachers in Japan spend the least amount of time doing teaching practicums while at college than their counterparts in other countries. Thus, they enter their new profession with their eyes relatively closed to the actual situation. My current research is investigating and comparing the teaching practicum systems of Japan and other countries.

My University Website can be found at:

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