



Active Learning and Oral Communication

In collaboration with the 15th annual Autumn Workshop of the Research Group for Teaching Oral Communication in Japan and the JALT Ibaraki Chapter



ICR 人文社会国際比較研究機構
Institute for Comparative Research in Human and Social Sciences

Saturday, December 9th, 2017
University of Tsukuba



The Autumn Workshop is an annual gathering aimed at sharing practical solutions or classroom research on common challenges we face in teaching oral communication to Japanese students. Teachers not interested in presenting are also more than welcomed to attend. The main goal is to provide a forum for teachers to share insights, best practices, and research that can enhance how speaking skills are taught in this country.

This document contains the EFL program. You will find the French program [here](#).

- ★ [Register here](#)
- ★ [Download the PDF of the time table and the map \(PDF\)](#)
- ★ [Download the PDF of the restaurant options for lunch \(PDF\)](#)

★ [How to get to the University of Tsukuba](#)

★ Any questions? Email Bruno Vannieu (vannieu@dragon.kobe-u.ac.jp)

★ If you can't find the venue, or for any other urgent problem on December 9th, call this number: 029-853-5600. Then, enter one of the two following extension numbers: 91163 or 91164.

9:30 - 10:00 Registration

10:00 - 10:10 Opening addresses

10:15 - 12:45 A framework for conceptualizing oral communication best practices

Over the years, the following three principles have emerged to form the basis of our approach for how best to teach oral communication in any language:

1. Building speaking skills for interactive, real-time conversation on everyday life topics
2. Regular oral testing
3. Raising awareness of cross-cultural differences in speaking styles and how to overcome them

In this morning session, Jerry Talandis Jr and Bruno Vannieu will summarise this general framework and consider some of its implications.

10:15 - 11:30

Turning speaking tasks into assessment activities

Jerry Talandis Jr, University of Toyama



One effective way to assess your students' speaking skills is to turn regular language practice tasks into tests. Such an approach to oral testing can potentially open up new ideas for assessment that help your students improve their speaking ability. In this practical, theory-lite presentation, various approaches to marking will be covered, including guidance on creating effective feedback/marking rubrics. Finally, practical issues regarding administration of in-class speaking tests will also be addressed. No previous experience with conducting speaking tests is required; any teacher interested in learning how to implement oral testing in the classroom is encouraged to attend.

Jerry Talandis Jr. has been teaching English in Japan since 1993 and is currently a Professor at the University of Toyama. His research interests include pragmatics, materials design, language testing, and professional development through classroom-based research. He is also co-author of the textbook Conversations in Class, 3rd Edition and the author of How to Test Speaking Skills in Japan: A Quick-Start Guide.

11:45 - 12:45

Using cultural codes to our advantage

Bruno Vannieu, Kobe University



Cultural styles of communication affect the typical university oral communication class in two ways: classroom interaction and the way students sound when they are having conversations. How can we best use our understanding of various cultural factors to avoid problems of miscommunication and deliver successful classes? This presentation will summarize 15 years of applied research in this area.

Bruno Vannieu is a tokunin professor at Kobe University and six-time winner of the school's "best teacher" award. He is also co-author of 12 French and English textbooks including Moi, Je and Conversations in Class (all three editions).

14:00 - 16:45 Lesson ideas and classroom research

After lunch, participants will share successful lesson activities or research projects, request feedback on potential research ideas, or simply attend and learn from peers.

14:00 - 14:30

From conversation to discussion: a scaffolded approach

Michael Stout, University of Tsukuba



In this presentation, the presenter will share classroom activities he has used to help learners improve their discussion skills. He will begin by showing some example discussion activities commonly found in coursebooks and investigate their inadequacies. Next, he will examine some of the necessary pragmatic skills needed to successfully participate in discussions, for example: hedging, politely disagreeing, asking for other's opinions, and building consensus. Finally, he will demonstrate some of the activities he has used including having students analyze model dialogues to find patterns, and how textbook discussion activities can be scaffolded for student success.

Participants should come away with a better understanding of some of the issues involved in teaching group discussions and example activities that they can adapt for use in their classrooms.

Michael Stout is an Associate Professor at the University of Tsukuba. His primary research interest is reflective practice.

14:45 - 15:15

Active learning, active assessment: One-on-one interviews

Roxana Sandu & Javier Salazar, University of Tsukuba



Coming from an excessively teacher-centered environment, Japanese students are not used to an interactive student-centered teaching approach. This is an exploratory study, which aim was to investigate students' perceptions of examinations in form of teacher-student interviews. To this end, questionnaires were administered to two groups of freshman students enrolled in a compulsory English course. Results show students found this type of examination beneficial. Difficulties in designing the rubric for the interview and assessing it will also be addressed.

Roxana Sandu (PhD, Tohoku University, Japan) is currently an assistant professor of English at the University of Tsukuba. Her main publications are in the field of pragmatics and discourse analysis, but recently her research interests also include teaching 21st century skills, such as critical thinking, communication and collaboration, as well as intercultural communication and understanding in an EFL setting.

15:30 - 16:00

Online Educational Resources and Integrated Discussion Course

Yuichi Ono, University of Tsukuba



This presentation will describe the basic contents of an “active learning” discussion course model that utilizes Online Educational Resources (OER) to enhance Japanese EFL learners’ oral communication skills, learning motivation, and critical thinking skills. This model incorporates components of OER, flipped teaching, jigsaw discussions, an online learning support system, and digital storytelling. An evaluation of the four-week course will be provided in terms of student’ motivation and critical thinking attitudes.

Yuichi Ono is an Associate Professor at University of Tsukuba in Japan. He is the director of the CALL system management committee at the Center for Education of Global Communication (CEGLOC). He holds a Ph.D. in engineering and a Master’s degree in education. His research interests include Language, Learning and Technology.

16:15 - 16:45

Playing with pragmatics: awareness raising and deliberate practice through a simple table-top game

Peter Hourdequin, Tokoha University



In this participatory workshop, attendees will experience (play!) a very simple table-top game. I will discuss how I’ve used the game in a university English oral communication class as a vehicle for raising pragmatic awareness about register, polite requests, and other speech acts. The presentation will conclude with a brief discussion about the unique affordances of table-top games for critical and imaginative thinking in the language classroom.

Peter Hourdequin is a lecturer in the Faculty of Foreign Studies at Tokoha University in Shizuoka, Japan. He is completing a PhD in Educational Research at Lancaster University, U.K., and is pursuing research interests in games and social impact, multiliteracies pedagogy, and ecolinguistics.

From 17:30: Dinner party

Drink, eat and socialise at a nearby restaurant.

Casa Noba

Set menu + nomi houdai, 3500 yen

★ [Google map to the venue for the dinner party](#)

1st CEGLOC Conference in collaboration with the 15th annual Autumn Workshop co-sponsored by ICR Institute for Comparative Research in Human and Social Sciences and ALMA Publishing

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