

I was born and grew up in Taiwan. At college, I majored in English literature. When I came to Massachusetts, I chose Bilingual Education for my graduate study. Before and after my graduate study, I had opportunities teaching English in Taiwan, and Taiwanese/Minnan and Mandarin Chinese in America. From these experiences, I worked with a wide variety of students from various languages, culture, ages, and social economic backgrounds, including little children, teenagers, college students, housewives, businessmen, and government officials.

Since 2004, I have been working at Beckman High School in Irvine, California. I teach five levels of Chinese classes, from Level 1 to AP. My classes are like little United Nation, composed of students from diverse ethnic backgrounds, with different abilities and expectations. The smallest class was under twenty students and the largest was about fifty. It was challenging to teach such a large class, but after that I told myself nothing is impossible.

Summer of 2010 was a milestone in my teaching career. The STARTALK program at UVA helped me to substantially apply the communicative approaches in my teaching. I cannot say I am “a tiger with wings” (如虎添翼), because the program was just finished and my school will not start until September. I need time to reform, to practice, and to prove.

From these experiences, I got lots of pleasure and friendship from teachers, students, and parents. One of my friends said I sold English to the East, and Chinese to the West. Indeed, I do enjoy “selling languages and cultures”. My experience of studying and teaching English in Taiwan has helped me in teaching Chinese language. It helps me to feel how my students may feel. On the other hand, my awareness of the beauty of my language and culture has been aroused because of the teaching. I will keep working and seeking the best way to sell my language and culture.