

## Reflection Day 1

I used to just have the conception of 5C standards and the three modes but I did not keep on following these rules in my daily classroom teaching all the time. Today's lecture helped me not only reviewed all the important conceptions of the national foreign language teaching standards, but also emphasize the importance of target language using during the teaching procedures and authentic material using in the teaching process, which was ignored by me some times.

The most impressive part of today's lecture is that Dr. Tseng said that she renewed her teaching materials and redo her lesson plan again three years' ago. I somehow always wanted to do so but I am afraid of big changing in my teaching. I will make my materials to adjust my teaching strategies to follow the rules we have reviewed today, which I believe is in the right direction. I want to try to follow Dr. Tseng's teaching philosophy to teach Chinese by using the authentic material, too.

OPI topic was talked today because it is a specific topic for foreign language teacher, but it rarely being talked in a Chinese teacher's meeting depends on my experiences. So I am very glad to learn something about the OPI knowledge and using this standard to do the backward design for student activities and writing or presentational assignment, which could help their AP test or STAMP. Thanks for today's wonderful lecture from Dr. Tseng and I feel that I learned a lot.

I want to talk more about the student center class which emphasized a lot by this STARTALK training. The more reflection I read in students' reflection from their website, the more important I think student center teaching is. Students are all creative and have the ability to survive if you believe that they can do and input as much as proper language during the class. Students will be happy to experience the new knowledge of foreign language if teacher repeat enough in class. So what teachers need to do is organize well and keep the pace properly, as well as give the learning right to the students and believe them.

I hope that Dr. Tseng can list more learning materials and books we need to read in the future. I believe that changing a teaching style is not that easy, I need to practice and test over and over again and then I can use this teaching philosophy well.

## Day 2 Reflection

Although this is the second day of my study in UVA STARTALK, I feel that I have learnt a lot by just witness Dr. Tseng's teaching. She taught us how to organize the classroom activities by doing Bingo, Survey, Interview activities yesterday and she also taught us by using the Jigsaw Reading activities in today's workshop. It is really a good way to demonstrate how to teach Chinese well as a language teacher.

I have been using the teacher's center theory to teach language for several years before I came to the U.S. but I changed this teaching method since 2012. I couldn't more agree with the theory of student's center now and try to find more teaching skills to improve my class, which I gained a lot of methods today by reading the materials last night and sharing opinions with my group teachers this morning. Mrs. Xian Yang Zhu helped me to understand the AP Chinese book which written by Dr. Tseng in the morning section.

What's more? In the afternoon section, I learned more about how to use the authentic materials to help teaching and what kind of authentic material is can be called the real authentic material, which conception I used not that clearly understand. I will try to bring more authentic resource from China to my Chinese class in the future and try to use them to build a better learning atmosphere up in

my classroom even school. Dr. Tseng said that all the AP Chinese class will be taught in 100 percentage of authentic materials which is a firsthand news for me, yet very useful for my future teaching career.

I enriched my teaching resources by learning from today's PPT from Dr. Tseng and also shared a lot of information about how to enhance my teaching ability by doing the two circle activity with the other teachers in the afternoon. This is the second day for my studying in the camp but I am so surprised by how much I have learnt and shared with all the professional teachers!

About the authentic materials' using I have some questions what to know from Dr. Tseng. I used to bring some Chinese Moon-cake to show my students and have my students taste them, but the Moon-cake's box and cases all have English introduction because they are made in America. Can I still say that they are authentic materials?

## **The Reflection of Day 3**

I learned how our brain works with the second language acquisition function and how to use the theory of our brains' work character to help students memorize language better. I also reviewed the concept of Noam Chomsky's theory whose idea has gradually abandoned in the LAD in favor of Universal Grammar and a parameter-setting model of language acquisition principles.

THE LANGUAGE INSTINCT written by Steven Pinker, introduced the science of language and popularizes Noam Chomsky's theory that language is an innate faculty of mind, which influenced me a lot. Language evolved by natural selection as an adaptation for communication. I am very happy that our lecture is not only related with the teaching method but also related with the science of the linguistic theory. I often make my students do the role play and encourage them to make a play and act the real life in Chinese, I believe that even pretend to be living in China, they can make an 'environment' of China.

In the afternoon section I first time clearly understand the concept of the three types of Elicitation Techniques, which are Mechanical drills, Meaningful drills and Communicative drills. I also make my decision of inputting as much meaningful language information as I can to enhance the students speaking fluency. The ACTFL statement which has been emphasized by Dr. Tseng's lecture today is to

immerse students in the meaning-based interactive environment and make meaning clear through body language, gestures and visual support to teach the target language.

To be frank, I did a lot of mechanical drills in my class instead of meaningful drills and communicative drills. I learned how to teach second language from an English institute of China, Shenyang. Teaching English in China were also asked to use the native language, so the first teaching philosophy of teaching a second language by that time was also using above 90 percent native language in class. As an English teacher I was asked to speak English to teach English in elementary level English class. But we always speak the same thing, such as 'repeat after me, one two go! Please sit down, etc.' I wonder how well this kind of simple classroom English works for my student's language improvement.

I tried to use Chinese as much as I could in the first year I taught in the U.S. which is Bridgeport High School of WV. The students were so mad at me because they could not understand me at the beginning, and they wanted me to do as their former Chinese teacher did in the Chinese class, such as the flash card game or some other games which seems like the mechanic drill practice. In addition, they would not like to learn how to write Chinese characters. Although I insist to teach Chinese in the way I should have do, students lose their interests and they all want

to drop. I think that balance the language teaching style is very important because you always face to the different students which demands you always change the way how to teach and deliver the new knowledge.

I started to teach two American high schools in Berkeley county from 2013, August. I tried to make an immersion environment in the beginning of the semester. In my second High school teaching year, I started to teach them how to write Chinese characters in the beginning of their learning. This year the students all did good job in the STAMP test and more important, they love Chinese! The only problem is I make less meaningful drills than did mechanical drill activities. So I think I should use what I have learned from this program to enrich my class activities and when my mentor teacher come to observe my class, I can show that how much meaningful drills and communicative drills I use and how much output my students can do in my class. Thanks for this teaching philosophy training of today's lesson so that I can have a right path to fulfill my teaching goal in the future.

## Day 4 Reflection

In morning workshop I learned the Task or Non-task teaching theory which impressive very much. The task teaching should make an authentic story environment and emphasize on the interpersonal communication. As a teacher we should make our rubric by ourselves.

When we were talking about designing a rubric of visiting a Chinese family, although I couldn't use this assessment very well I still getting closer to the best way to improve my students language ability and help them be successful in the significant tests. The following work for me to do when I go back to the daily teaching is that I need to not only teach my students with the authentic material but also design the rubric for IPA(implementing performance assessment). I never think that for a seeing a doctor's IPA, as Dr. Tseng said we should design two assessment sheet, but now I think I should review a lot of my teaching methods and experiences because some of my teaching is not effective or not efficient. I also learned a lot from Dr. Tseng's criticize of my mini-demo. I would like to try Dr. Tseng's way of teaching the measure word when I teach in my classroom to see if my way of teaching measure word is less efficient.

I am so lucky to be picked by Dr. Tseng's UVA STARTALK because I learn the most useful teaching theory from this camp and I will use them and also testify the



theory in my classes. I hope that before we graduate from here we can get some homework about writing Chinese language teaching reflection essay. And I want Dr. Tseng can help me to pick a topic up and tutoring me finish it.

### **Day 5 Reflection**

I learned a lot from master teacher Henny and this is the most efficient lesson about technology I have ever been joined. I just know very basic computer technology and did not use the smart board always in my class. Sometimes I show the Youtube video to my students and it is not use the technology enough.

In the future, I will use more websites and teaching technology in my class in various ways. I hope that in the following days, master teacher Henny can teach us more things about how to make the PPT better such as how to insert a piece of video into the slideshow or how to use the moviemaker better. I always want to learn how to use the quizlet to work with my students in class teaching but I just know one or two games and I want to create the word cards with some useful Chinese learning website.

I also want to learn more about how to use the dropbox and who to find the fancy websites and the teaching tools as well as Henny. Last but not least, I thank Henny

very much for her generous sharing spirit and today's excellent workshop! It's really lucky to learn from Henny about the technology.

### **Day 3 Practicum Reflection**

I finished my teaching for first day but it was not as good as I thought. I think I should do more rehearsal before I teach and do more activities by using the student center mode. But I finish my teaching goal and the learning objectives are achieved; Students seemed very engaged the class and happy with the content of this class; I implemented all three communication modes teaching/learning activities. I can use different strategies to make students work together.

I did the student center teaching not enough; I did many teacher-students interaction but not students with students practice; I should control the time better; I teach the zodiac animals signs a little bit slow. I should teach a little bit faster and practice new sentence structure more times. I started to ask students to give presentation in the last 7 minutes instead of playing guessing game. In the first 30 minutes I did the words input but not practice them to speak out by putting in the meaningful conversation in the process of teaching. I believe that students will like this game but their language output is not enough. I think they will for sure speak

right by learning the words well but I should constantly practicing three mode conversation activities because that's how they will use their sentence well. In one word, students actually enjoy the interactive activities and giving presentation to see how much they can do in a period class. I will extent the presentation time in next demo teaching. Sometimes I do not know how to design the good activities. I hope that Dr.Tseng can teach us more about how to design good activities for Chinese class and how to use some new strategies to enhance the students' interests in learning Chinese.

To make the students love the language and use it, without fun and engagement, how will they consistently choosing to learn it and observing in different ways? If the students use 10 months to learn the same amount of the knowledge which they could learn in just 1 month, it will be a waste of time to make them learn it by using 10 months. But if we try to teach the students a language or any kind of knowledge which they should learn for 10 years within one year, they probably will drop in the mid of the way.

## **Day 6 Practicum Reflection**

I did more students center activities in today's class and my students all enjoyed it which is the most important thing for me. My teaching philosophy maybe not right but I really regard that the happiness and enjoyable in language class is necessary. By witness their language output today, I also feel that I am more comfortable with the student center teaching experience.

### **What went well in my lesson?**

I finished all what I planned to teach and almost keep the pace I prepare to do. Students can order food by the end of the class and by the reflection from the website of the students I got to know that they all can order food and enjoyed this class, which is always the most important part of my teaching, because I look upon the ability of students using a language to communicate with others and using the language to actually do something. It also reminds of me that I could do the field trip to Washington D.C. in the next semester in my school, so that my students can also experience this happy time together.

### **What needs improvement?**

I should make my class more fun and keep the students focus on everything I taught. I also should have do more modeling to make sure that what I want them to

do. Modeling clearly is a teaching skill I should learn in the future. In addition, I should arrange my PPT order more logically and smoothly, so that the teaching step will be better.

**To what extent did your enacted lesson match your lesson plan, and what are the reasons for any changes?**

I did all what I want to do but I could not make sure that if they can use Chinese to describe the flavor very well, I really always could not make sure how much and how well my students can do with some difficult expression sentence pattern. I should find some way to test this point. Then the students can totally use what I teach them instead of wasting their time.

### **Day 9 Practicum Reflection**

I did not feel good for my class today because I feel that some of my students are unhappy with the class. Although I have been told that the students whom I taught today are very quiet and less active, I still want to motivate them. I downloaded the pictures of them and make the PPT with their activities, which I wish can motivate them a little bit but the result is not as good as I expected. I will pay attention on this point and avoid from doing this thing.

### **What went well in my lesson?**

I tried my best to prepare well before I teach as before because I know that there is no bad teacher, but there is lazy teacher. I made some students center activities before I teach with our mentor teacher Mrs. Zhong. Mentor teacher Ya-jing told me that the activity of standing in a circle to make students ask and answer new sentences is went well today. I feel most of them like the way I teach although one of them was sick and a little tired. Also I finished all what I planned to teach. Students can say the different transportation after this lesson and they understand the sentence pattern I taught "先.....再.....". I used more TPR to help them to understand my content and I feel more relax in today's class. Maybe first period is the easiest period so I feel good on this point.

### **What needs improvement?**

I should not influenced by the bad mood of some students, but this is my weakness exist in my full teaching career. I care about yet I influenced by any emotion of the students. I should focus on the positive element in the class next time. I also should have done the modeling more clearly. I should not make any mistake in the modeling part because there are so many good teachers are just there and eager to help me. I also should make the PPT better than today's sequence. I commit that the students all understand what I taught without check out very clearly so

sometime my pace is too fast. I should make more activities of students center in my future class. I think I am very lucky to learn in this STARTALK program.

Although it is very hard and so intensive for both teachers and the students, just like Zhen-na Zhang said " the UVA STARTALK is not proper for the Chinese teacher who participated in STARTALK camp first, this is a training program proper for experienced Chinese teacher, especially who already have been trained in other STARTALK program.

By training in the UVA STARTALK program I can reflection right after I teach and I really want to improve more and more. I will make more good activities for my future teaching and I really want to learn from other teachers especially from Dr. Tseng. I hope that Dr. Tseng can teach us more about AP Chinese because I really want to know more information.

**To what extent did your enacted lesson match your lesson plan, and what are the reasons for any changes?**

I think some of the students are not practice the new words enough so when they try to make the new sentence by themselves, they are not sure what and how to say the new vocabs. I should practice the new words more with my students. I also can try some new ways to teach because I always want to try the new teaching method

and interesting stuff in my class. I love my students so I love to touch their heart  
and feel their passion in class, which needs me have the passion first!