

### First reflection:

帶著滿滿的一瓶水，我來到了我們項目的課堂。這滿滿的一瓶水中有的不是教學理念，教學方法，卻是疲憊，壓力和一些對新知識的渴求。在來到項目之前的兩個星期，我的學區剛剛放假。但是學校是放假了，我還要為下一年做很多的準備。所以在來之前的兩個星期可真是忙和累。第一天的課下來，我的這瓶水就被曾老師的活力激盪了出來，騰出了空間為接下來的三個星期做準備。

這幾年在教學和學習中不斷接觸到五大外語教學目標，也試著運用到教學當中。只是有些還不是很清楚。在項目的第一天我們重新回到我們的教學目標，給我個機會再次審視自己以往的教學理念和 方法。在和每個老師的溝通中也學到很多實際的東西。我想在接下來日子裡會有很多的收穫。

### Second reflection:

It is only the second day of the program. My emptied bottle is almost full again. I have learned so much even this is only the second day.

One concept, or maybe called theory, is kind of new to me. 曾老師 talked about whether or not to teach Pinyin system. For the communicative purpose, 曾老師 thought teaching Pinyin system all together is not an effective way for students to learn Chinese. Instead, she prefers to use meaningful context to bring out Pinyin. It is a different method from what I have learned and taught in the past years. I'm thinking that if we don't teach students the Pinyin system, how are they going to learn by themselves when they see a new word? If the students don't have the strong foundation for Pinyin, is it going to slow down learning process for them in the future? It sounds effective when we just teach them to communicate in the target language without spending time to teach them Pinyin, but how about for the long run? Do the students still need to learn the Pinyin system down the road?

There is a school in my state that had Chinese program for over thirty years. They are becoming a successful Chinese language program model for other schools. Their Chinese program emphasizes a lot on pronunciation. Therefore, for Chinese level one students, the teacher will spend at least one month to teach Pinyin and tones. I personally think that we should teach students Pinyin system formally. When the students have the basic knowledge of Chinese pronunciation system, they will be better prepared to learn the language in the long run. But if there is more researchers showing that without teaching Pinyin system, the students actually learn the language faster and better, then we might need to change our mind to adopt the new methods.

### Third reflection:

The morning session was fun because we now know how language are learned and know what methods works better for students to learn language.

In the afternoon session, I learned a few teaching methods and classroom management from Zen 老師 and other teacher. Here are some strategies that I learned from Zen 老師 today. I want to share with you all:

1. Before students come to class, they have to preview the lesson.
2. Quiz students the previewed words. Dictation quiz for words and sentences.
3. Don't spend too much time to practice character writing in class. Give the immersion environment to students. They can practice words at home.

I think Zen 老師 is right, maybe I should let students practice the characters at home, and leave the time to do more meaningful communicative practice in class. The students need to preview before class. I know it is hard for high school students, but I will try to come up with some strategies to make the students preview before class. To quiz the students before class start in not that easy, but I saw that on the assigned video clip, the high school teacher also quiz her students everyday when the class start, so I think it is doable. I can try it too. Since most of the high school students don't have time or always have excuse to skip assignment, so sometimes I want them to work on the characters in class. But now thinking about how valuable the class time is, I should change the way I have been doing. I should try my best to create the immersion environments for my students. The other tip I learned is that in order to use total target language, use paper or PowerPoint to give the students English instruction. I haven't thought about it before. Sometime I feel that if I give the students instruction in Chinese when they do some tasks, they will get confused, and therefore they will do wrong. Now I think I have solved this problem.

Forth reflection:

Today I learned many ideas of using authentic material in the classroom. I have many reading books, authentic movies and songs. Once a while I will ask my students to do some reading when there are a few minutes left before class, or show them a short video clips after they work hard enough for their task. I realized how effective it is to use authentic materials, but just didn't really know how to use and imbed them in my lessons. The other reason I didn't use the authentic movies or songs is that I thought it is hard to create any activities. In today's group activity, we were discussing how we can use the authentic material in our lesson plan. The activities just opened my mind to many possibilities to use the authentic material effectively and widely. All the teachers have many ideas that helped me to come up with some practices. Now I know that with careful planning, we can use authentic material for all levels.

The other activity is the fifteen questions. Each teacher has one question to think about, but small group will discuss first and then each individual explains the culture background for that word. I like this activity, but I am still thinking how I can use target language and let my students use the target language to do this type of activity.

#### Fifth reflection:

It's always easier to see other's mistakes in their teaching than to see it in my own. Today I felt this way. When observing other teacher's teaching, I can see what parts work for the students and what parts don't work. It alerts me to think about my own teaching. How many times have I made the same mistake and didn't realize it until I saw them from other teacher's teaching? I think this is a great practice for us to show our own teaching, to see other teacher's teaching, and be able to give constructive feedback. This practice is only a 6 minutes demo lesson, but teachers spent hours and hours to work together for the lesson because they simply want to bring out their best practice. This is very inspiring to me. 李老師的 demo teaching is very special. She slept only a few hours and worked hard on the lesson plan, and she delivered the best practice for us. I definitely learned a lot from all the teachers.

Another thing that I felt so amazed is the technology session lead by one of the participant Zen. He knows what the 21st century's students need----- to bring the technology to the classroom. He is very devoted to his teaching by using all resources as much as possible. I would like to use the technologies in my classroom, but sometimes I am so busy and always have excuse of not learning the current technology myself. I know if I want to keep my students' interests, and motivate them to learn Chinese, I need to use variety of techniques and tools in my classroom.

#### Sixth reflection:

Finally I finished my teaching today. I have waited for this day for a week. Since the practicum started, I observed other teacher's teaching every day, I learned from their successes and their mistakes. I am tired but also felt much more confident now. I think it's going to be a different year ahead now because of what I have learned from this program. Like I shared today in the teacher's feedback session, there are many things that changed my mind and my thoughts throughout the program. First, learning the effective methods gives me the confidence to apply them in my classroom. Working with groups and other teachers helped me to know better how to work with others well and bring the best of ourselves. The other thing I learned throughout my lesson planning is the importance of team work. We didn't get used to working with other. This is a perfect opportunity to work with other teachers and to collaborate with each other. There are conflicts sometimes, but if we all have a common goal that is to advocate our Chinese program, we will tolerate each other. After almost three weeks working and living together, I see many positive attitudes from the entire group. Although we can complain of the workload and the team works, but I can feel that we all love each other and we all learn from each other in many ways. I hope it is not our last time to work together and we can encourage each other in the future.