

**Toyohashi University of Technology,
Institute for Global Network Innovation in Technology
Education
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■ Reports

Trouble!

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Go back to Japan!

Jeez! I was not able to pass through the immigration gate! It was a bad thing that I said I would teach at a university because I didn't have a certificate from a university. I heard for the first time to "Go back to Japan!".

Eventually, the officer allowed me to stay only two weeks, but the officer was laughing. No way! Since I had liked Malaysia, I was shocked. As a result, I went to Immigration Center with members of the TUT staff, and I got a VISA, finally.

Lecture overview

The location of the lecture somewhat depends on the teachers; my lecture sites are Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM, engineering campus and main campus) and Politeknik Seberang Perai (PSP). One lecture is two hours, and I was in charge of a total of five lectures. The USM is similar to former Imperial Universities, and the PSP is the KOSEN.

We need two types of lecture: general and specialized subject, but the main topic is 'Car technology'. For this reason, I chose the 'Biofuel' as my main topic.

The lecture at USM

The Engineering campus does not have a department the same as my specialty. Therefore, I made the lecture easily. Although my lecture concentrated on the general subject, I made it more difficult because the campus had my specialty. However, attendees were only graduated students and Professors. For this reason, some participants, whose specialty was the same as me, told me they wanted to

hear my second lecture, and that it should be more advanced. However, this may seem difficult for other participants.

The lecture at PSP

The participants were more than 100 students, and the college was very similar to KOSEN. In addition, the atmosphere was completely different from USM. I had heard that my students were the same in the morning session and afternoon session, but the students were different. As a result, I had to reconstruct my lecture during lunch break. However, I didn't change my lecture's level; this lecture is the last lecture for me at Penang. For this reason, I included all the things that I wanted to teach the students. Some students naturally filled out the evaluation sheet with comments such as 'I didn't understand well', 'I was not interested.' and so on. On the other hand, there were some great warm comments such as 'Amazing! I have never seen such a lecture! Please bring me to Japan!', 'Please come again!!', and so on. I succeeded to give some students interest in my field and my passion. My purpose was achieved.

Looking back on lectures

'Improving English' was pointed out by the students. Also, I felt from the evaluation sheets that the students truly wanted to know the lecture well. In other words, since the students had an interest in my lecture, they really wanted to understand well. I recognized the importance of proper English. Having said that, I will be able to never teach students if I stop to teaching until I acquire perfect English skills. At least, I can teach

them important things. In addition, I was able to demonstrate my all experiences, which obtained through the project, to the last lecture. We have no choice but to improve our English while teaching. I obtained valuable experiences through the project.



How I improve my English in Malaysia

Toru Okawara, National Institute of Technology, Kitakyushu College

When I was in the United States, there were a lot of occasions to use English in my daily life. Newspapers, TV programs, and an announcement from the school office, everything was English, which means, reading and listening skills grew up spontaneously. It also turns out that, once I lost the opportunity, I have to figure out another method to improve my English. Here, Pulau Pinang, people speak Malay and Chinese as well as English. Most of people can speak English, but there is no doubt that Malay is the first language in Malaysia. As a consequence, I was facing the problem described above at the first one or two weeks. However, I was able to overcome the situation by editing an English phrase sheet and exposing to other language like Malay. In this report, I'd like to share my experience with readers.

During a process of making a phrase list, I could go over and recall a lot of useful phrases. While I was in Toyohashi University of Technology (TUT) and The City College of New York (CUNY), I studied English from native English speakers. I have learnt a ton of English phrases from not only teachers but also friends and laboratory members. Honestly, I have not been taught most of the phrases, yet I have a habit of taking note whenever someone says something new for me. This helped me a lot. During the time, I have collected incredible amount of the new phrases that can be used in classroom and laboratory. When I arrived in Pulau Pinang, I started to summarize an English phrase list with colleagues. We have categorized these phrases in terms of situations and contexts. In the process, I have seen all of the phrases over and over again, and eventually, I got accustomed to handling the phrases. I have succeeded in a special lecture at a school in Pulau Pinang by using these phrases.

Learning Malay helped me to improve my English. Although it sounds strange, I personally strongly believe that a learning process of other languages also supports acquiring a better English skill. Have you ever heard that a student who cannot do well in English cannot do well in Japanese, too? I can say that it's true from my experience. Learning languages other than English can stimulate our brain. As we study the third or fourth language, we can also notice how English is easy and useful. Moreover, here I use English when I learn Malay. It makes more opportunity to use English. One more important thing upon learning the other language is that we can get familiar with the culture and people in Malaysia. To make more chance to speak and good relationship with people, I would recommend that we should learn other languages.

In conclusion, I have improved my language skills by going through two experiences, making a phrase list and learning Malay. I can improve my English skills even when I'm in Malaysia. There should be a lot of chances to use English if I want.

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