The Gwangju Communicator

Newsletter of the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter of Korea TESOL

July 2019

Code-Switching: Assist or Avoid

By Bryan Alkema

That moment when you know you’ve heard the other language in an English classroom, you turn around and see all your students blinking innocently at you….it happens to all of us. But is there any way in which not using English can be put to good use in the classroom? Code-switching is shifting between different languages within one interaction. In a second-language learning environment, what are some purposes for code-switching? As second-language teachers, what sort of responses can we develop that won’t frustrate either us or our students? We’ll examine how first language can be used to either assist or avoid the second-language learning process, and how being intentional in what we do and don’t allow can streamline our classes.

The Presenter

Bryan Alkema has taught both EFL and ESL to students of all ages and skill levels, in contexts ranging from North America to the Middle East and Asia. He has given presentations at previous national and international KOTESOL conferences as well as in Oman. He received his M.App.Ling. from the University of Southern Queensland in 2013. Bryan currently teaches both English and TESOL courses at Handong Global University in Pohang, Gyeongsangbuk-do, and serves as coordinator for the EAP level of Handong’s four-tier English program. Email: bryan@handong.edu

(Bryan Alkema will be presenting on code-switching on July 13 at the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter KOTESOL meeting at Gwangju National University of Education.)
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Joining Korea TESOL

Who May Join:
English teachers of any level or nationality are eligible to join. KOTESOL welcomes native and non-native speakers teaching at public schools, language institutes, colleges and universities, and other organizations, as well as tutors. Undergraduate students may join as student members.

What Memberships Types Are Available?
- Regular 1-Year Membership: 50,000 won.
- Lifetime Membership: 500,000 won. Student and International Membership options are also available.

How to Join:
Apply by using the online membership form at http://www.koreatesol.org/. On the front page, click on “Join KOTESOL” in the menu, and follow the directions. Help available at a Chapter meeting. Alternately, paper membership application and renewal forms are available at Chapter meetings for those who prefer making a hard-copy application with Chapter assistance.

Membership payment may be made by either of these two methods:
- Bank transfer to: KOTESOL. KEB-Hana bank account number: 299-890069-83204.
- Payment in cash to the Chapter Membership Officer at a Chapter Meeting.
Online Language Learning Should Be Easy and Free, But It’s Not (Yet)

By Daniel Corks

The term is over, but some of your students want to continue learning English on their own time. What do you tell them? Teachers likely have a few well-meaning answers they give regarding approaches to language learning or resources for practice, such as, “Focus on meaning” or “Try graded readers.” Unfortunately, most of it isn’t concrete or specific enough to be of much use, and learners leave the class without a clear sense of what they should do next.

In today’s online world, someone with time and an internet connection can learn anything for free. This is true in principle for English as well, and students who are intermediate level or above often know how to find material that suits their level and interests. For lower-level students, e.g., the typical university student, however, the picture is much different. Resources that these learners can and actually would use independently are hard to find. Online content that is at their level is buried deep within websites that are directed at teachers, not at learners, and more often than not, the material itself just feels like another textbook. There’s a knowledge gap to fill on both the part of the teachers and the learners.

To fill this gap, this workshop will present an extensive list of websites, apps, social media channels, and other online resources suitable for lower-level learners and invite the participants to share their own online recommendations as well. Participants will also discuss and compile a simple set of language learning principles to guide students who are engaged in independent language practice.

While intended for teachers of learners who are mature enough to engage in self-study, the resources presented in this presentation can also be easily put to use by teachers in class.

THE PRESENTER

Daniel Corks is a graduate of Sogang University in Seoul with a master’s degree in applied linguistics in the area of second language acquisition. He is currently an assistant professor at Woosong University in Daejeon and a member of the Daejeon-Chungcheong Chapter of KOTESOL. Prior to this, Daniel was based in Jeollanam-do and was active in presenting and participating at Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter events.

(Daniel will be presenting on free online resources on July 13 at the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter KOTESOL meeting at Gwangju National University of Education.)
Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL July Chapter Meeting

- Time: Saturday, July 13, 2019, 1:45–5:00 p.m.
- Place: Gwangju Natl. University of Ed., Teacher Training Bldg., Room 812 (1st Floor)

Schedule: Chapter Meeting, Main Session

1:45 pm: Sign-in and Meet-and-Greet  
(Admission free for newcomers. Future membership always welcomed.)

2:00 – 2:50 pm: SESSION 1 (PRESENTATION)  
Code-Switching: Assist or Avoid  
Bryan Alkema (Handong Global University, Pohang, Gyeongbuk)

2:50 – 3:10 pm: Refreshment & Networking Break

3:10 – 4:00 pm: SESSION 2 (PRESENTATION)  
Online Language Learning Should Be Easy and Free, But It’s Not (Yet)  
Daniel Corks (Woosong University, Daejeon)

4:10 – 4:45 pm: SwapShop Session (Open to All)  
Everyone is encouraged to share their Teaching Discoveries and “Secrets” with the group.  
Share your Teaching Tips, Ideas, Classroom Activities, Games, ELT Books, or other Teaching  
Wisdom. (Handouts welcomed.)

4:45 – 5:00 pm: Announcements / Drawing for Door Prizes / Closing

After-Meeting Dinner at The First Alleyway restaurant downtown.

Upcoming Chapter Events

Paul Johnson: Roleplaying Games  
Diane Santos: Multicultural Students and the Korean Educational System  
Teacher Training Center, GNUE, Gwangju.

Ian Moodie: Public School Teachers Teaching Beliefs  
Teacher Training Center, GNUE, Gwangju.

Upcoming KOTESOL Events

October 12–13, 2019.  
The 27th Annual Korea TESOL International Conference  
Advancing ELT: Blending Disciplines, Approaches, and Technologies  
Sookmyung Women’s University, Seoul

Reflective Practice SIG

Reflecting on Cultivating Emotional Resilience  
July 13 (11:00–12:30)  
Vanessa Virgiel facilitating.  
At Coffee Lab Mujii (near GNUE)