



The Language Café at Lunchtime

The Situation.....

October-December 2016

- 12.40-13.10 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday
 - Eat lunch and communicate in an L2
 - Usually 2-3 L1 English speakers in attendance
 - Attendance is encouraged but not mandatory
 - Most attendees are first year students
 - Free self-service drinks
 - Relaxed environment, not a classroom
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Investigative Aims

- What are both teachers' and students' current perceptions of the café's state and success?
 - What are the motivating factors for student attendance at the café and how could non-attendees be encouraged to attend?
 - Would more structure in terms of materials to support conversation be a welcome addition to the café?
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Theoretical Context

- Shamim - ‘Front-zoners’
 - Skehan - ‘Carrot and Stick Hypothesis’
 - Krashen - ‘Low Anxiety Environment’
 - Yashima - ‘International Posture’
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Extrinsic Motivating Factors to Learn

- ‘Once any chance for receiving reward is eliminated, learners may cease to apply effort.’
 - MacIntyre and Gardner (1991)
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Intrinsic Motivating Factors to Learn

- ‘International Posture is ‘a far-sighted somewhat vague long-term objective related to using English for international/intercultural communication’
- Yashima et al (2004)
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Intrinsic Motivating Factors to Learn

- ‘A more powerful category of reward is one which is intrinsically driven within the learner’
 - Brown (2002)
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Language Anxiety

‘A low-anxiety environment for L2 speaking is easy to say but difficult to provide.’

-Krashen (1981)

‘It is not uncommon to find people who tend to avoid entering L2 communication situations even if they possess a high level of communicative competence. This implies that there is a further layer of mediating factors between the competence to communicate and putting this competence into practice’

- Dornyei (2005)

The Research.....

- Interviews with teachers
 - Questionnaire administered to 100 first-year students in their compulsory English class
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Quantitative Data Results from 100 Students

Have you been to the Language Café at lunchtime this semester?

YES 23 NO 77

How many times have you been there?

Once 5

Under five 9

Five to ten 3

Over ten 6

Reasons for Attendance

(multiple choices allowed for the 23)

To talk to foreign teachers in a foreign language

20

To talk to other students in a foreign language

13

To listen to others talk

9

To talk to others in Japanese

3

To quietly eat lunch

1

Others

4

Reasons for Non-Attendance (multiple choices for the 77)

I lack confidence in my ability to take part in conversation

58

Free talk makes me anxious

46

I want to speak in Japanese at lunchtime

31

The time is inconvenient for me

20

I'm too busy

20

I want to be alone at lunchtime

4

I'm not interested in hearing or speaking a foreign language at the cafe

4

The reaction....

April 2017

- The ‘Language Menu’
 - The attendance card
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Greetings

Hello.

Hi!

Good afternoon. (*more formal*)

Life Talk

How's it going?

How's life?

How have you been?

What's up?

How was your weekend? (*good question on Monday*)

How's your day/week going?

Do you have any plans for _____?

Follow-Up Questions

Ask questions to continue the conversation

What Where When Who Why How

News Talk

Talk about recent news- from on campus to around the world!

Did you read/see/hear the news about _____?

What do you think about _____?

A

Student

B²³

LANGUAGES

C A F E

~~O~~

VK

~~E~~

Number

&

B

10/12

E

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LEARNING

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LEARNING

~~O~~

Quotes from teachers to provoke discussion.....

- *The café is a place to practice English who can't afford to go abroad, and this is as about as close an environment as they are going to be able to find.*
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Quotes from teachers to provoke discussion.....

- *I recently went in (the café) and saw a table of students speaking in Japanese, and encouraged them to speak English, and then they did. Unless there is a rule there, how can they speak English? Who is going to be the first one to insist they all speak English? As long as it's imposed on them, they'll do it. You need a native speaker to light the match.*
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Quotes from teachers to provoke discussion.....

- *The high school mentality of performing when the teachers are around isn't good, they should think more like adults and take care of their own education. It's not just getting a grade, learning is for learning.*
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Quotes from teachers to provoke discussion.....

- *The card gets them in the door, and that's OK but they will then realize why they are there (the café.)*
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