STUDENTS' PERCEPTION OF COMMUNICATIVE LANGUAGE TEACHING: A STUDY OF THE EFFECTS OF ORAL COMMUNICATIVE ACTIVITIES IN A POST-SECONDARY EFL CLASSROOM

YEH WAI MAN, HELEN
STUDENT NO.: 97401668

A Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment Of the MASTER OF ARTS IN LANGUAGE STUDIES

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

AUGUST 1999
ABSTRACT

The aim of this dissertation is to study the perceptions of students in the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education towards Communicative Language Teaching (CLT), with particular reference to oral communicative activities. Five major aspects of the students’ perceptions towards CLT are discussed: the general impression of the students towards the communicative lesson; the students’ perception towards the teacher’s role; the students’ perception towards the oral communicative activities; the students’ perceptions towards the usefulness of the oral communicative activities; and the teaching effectiveness of the activities on students’ learning motivation.

The results of this research showed that the students have favorable perceptions towards Communicative Language Teaching. The students found the activities authentic, useful and interesting, for which they are ultimately motivated to use and learn English. In this sense, Communicative Language Teaching is an effective English language teaching methodology in the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational institution (Sha Tin).

Pedagogically speaking, this study suggested that integrating form-focus activities and vocabulary teaching into communicative activities should contribute to higher levels of linguistic and communicative competence and performance.
摘要

這論文是以一班香港專業教育學院（沙田分校）的一年級學生為研究對象；研究目的為探討現今學生對「語言傳意教學法」*的觀感，特別是他們對口語傳意活動的感覺。這研究包括五方面：（1）學生對一般傳意課堂的看法；（2）學生對傳意老師角色的感覺；（3）學生對口語傳意活動的感受；（4）學生對傳意活動的實用程度的意見；及（5）這些活動對學生在語言學習上的成效。

這項研究的主要發現是學生對「語言傳意教學法」有正面的評價。學生不但覺得教學活動有實用價值及趣味性，而且能推動他們積極地學習英語。由此觀之，「語言傳意教學法」在香港專業教育學院（沙田分校）是一項有成效的英語教學法。

此外，這項研究亦指出，若「語言傳意教學法」能配合以文法及教授常用生字為其設計教學活動的基礎，學生的語言能力應能相對地被提高。

* Communicative Language Teaching is translated to 語言傳意教學法 according to my own interpretation.
CONTENTS

Declaration
Acknowledgements
Abstract
Contents

1. Introduction ................................................................................................................................. p.01

2. Background of Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) ........................................... p.03
   2.1 Origins and development of CLT ...................................................................................... p.03
   2.2 Definitions of CLT ............................................................................................................ p.05
   2.3 Principles of CLT ............................................................................................................. p.08
      2.3.1 Learners’ communicative needs .............................................................................. p.08
      2.3.2 Competence elements with an integration of all four language skills ................... p.08
      2.3.3 Provision of language acquisition environment ..................................................... p.09
      2.3.4 Minimal focus on form and error correction .......................................................... p.10
   2.4 Practice of CLT ................................................................................................................ p.13
      2.4.1 Teacher’s role ........................................................................................................... p.13
      2.4.2 Learner’s role ........................................................................................................... p.15
      2.4.3 Classroom activities ............................................................................................... p.16
      2.4.4 Teaching materials ............................................................................................... p.17
   2.5 Limitations of CLT .......................................................................................................... p.19

3. Background of the study ........................................................................................................ p.23
   3.1 Historical view of English teaching in Hong Kong secondary schools ...................... p.23
   3.2 Problems and Restrictions of Hong Kong secondary schools teachers
      in using CLT ...................................................................................................................... p.25
      3.2.1 Examination-oriented education ........................................................................... p.25
      3.2.2 Traditional teaching methods ............................................................................... p.26
      3.2.3 Class size and schedule ....................................................................................... p.27
      3.2.4 Resources and equipment .................................................................................... p.27
   3.3 Applicability of CLT in the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education ................ p.29
      3.3.1 Different criteria for assessment of learners’ performances ................................... p.30
      3.3.2 Self-developed materials ..................................................................................... p.30
      3.3.3 Class size and schedule ....................................................................................... p.30
      3.3.4 Resources and equipment .................................................................................... p.31
3.4 The study ................................................................. p.32

4. Research Methodology ................................................... p.33
  4.1 Subjects Profiles ..................................................... p.33
  4.2 Instrument ............................................................. p.34
    4.2.1 Teacher’s diary ................................................ p.34
    4.2.2 Students’ questionnaire ........................................ p.34
    4.2.3 Students’ quick reflection ..................................... p.35
  4.3 Materials .............................................................. p.37
  4.4 Procedure ............................................................ p.39

5. Findings ........................................................................ p.40
  5.1 Students’ Questionnaires & Quick Reflections .................. p.40
    5.1.1 The students’ general impression towards the lesson ...... p.40
    5.1.2 The students’ perceptions towards the teacher’s role ...... p.43
    5.1.3 The students’ perceptions towards the activities .......... p.44
    5.1.4 The students’ perceptions towards the usefulness of the  
          oral communicative activities .................................. p.45
    5.1.5 The teaching effectiveness of the activities on students’  
          learning motivation............................................... p.48
  5.2 Teacher’s Diary ......................................................... p.52
    5.2.1 Students’ language use .......................................... p.52
    5.2.2 Students’ involvement and participation ..................... p.53
    5.2.3 Class atmosphere ............................................... p.55
    5.2.4 Teacher’s role .................................................... p.55

6. Discussion ..................................................................... p.58
  6.1 The students’ perception towards oral communicative activities .... p.58
  6.2 The teaching effectiveness of oral communicative activities on students’ 
       language learning and language use .............................. p.59
  6.3 Pedagogic implications .............................................. p.61
  6.4 Roles of English teachers ............................................ p.63

7. Conclusion ................................................................. p.64

8. Limitations and Suggestions for further studies .................. p.66
Appendices:
Appendix A: The sample of the teacher’s dairy
Appendix B: The sample of the student’s questionnaire
Appendix C: The sample of the student’s quick reflection
Appendix D: The sample of the activity 1
Appendix E: The sample of the activity 2
Appendix F: The sample of the activity 3
Appendix G: The sample of the activity 4
Appendix H: The mean and standard deviation of the Questionnaire of the activity 1
Appendix I: The mean and standard deviation of the Questionnaire of the activity 2
Appendix J: The mean and standard deviation of the Questionnaire of the activity 3
Appendix K: The mean and standard deviation of the Questionnaire of the activity 4
Appendix L: The transcription and summary of the students’ responses of the quick reflection

Reference