

Title: Theater Technique- A Highly Effective Strategy for Language Instruction

Presenter: Yung-yi Lu

Focus Area: Planning for the Learner

Audience: All

Content and Purpose:

In this session, the presenter will share her experiences in utilizing theater technique as a primary approach in teaching Chinese language and culture. Applying this approach, language learners assume different roles, study scripts using interpretive reading skills, perform a story using verbal and nonverbal expressions, and then receive feedback from the audience. The classroom is turned into a stage, which makes teaching and learning Chinese a fun-filled experience.

Outcomes:

Participants will learn about the four major elements (characters, plot, stage and audience) of a play and learn how to transform them into instructional purposes in a language class. Participants will learn how to adapt a story into a dialogue based script; they will learn how to use tones and pitch to create mood and expressions, and they will also learn information on props, costumes, makeup, and lighting, and how they all affect the production.

Methods:

Using a Power Point presentation, the presenter will demonstrate how to produce two plays based on Chinese legends, one for lower grades and the other for upper grade students. Participants will experience the entire process involved in producing a play; they will then be divided into small groups to create a variation on their own.

Program Description: (same as content and purpose)

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Primary Language for Presentation: Chinese