

Title of Session: English Pow Wow

Moderator: Maggi Doty

Title of File: 20040110eflpowwow

Date: January 10, 2005

Room: Pow Wow Group

Maggi: So. first I think we should share and talk about the good things that worked

Maggi: what worked well for you

VennyS: work on what? listening, reading, writing, or speaking?

Maggi: all of them Venny

Maggi: which do you think is most important

VennyS: all are important;)

Maggi: let's start with the first...listening

Maggi: what do you use?

VennyS is just adding a link;)

Maggi: Anna you mentioned blended learning yesterday...can you describe it?

AnnaK: my students use 2 main resources in the computer room: the online units (our own course) and additional materials from our intranet, which comprises of Australian ESL software + Internet links that I collected

Maggi: when you add a link it can be featured

Maggi: then it appears on the welcome page

Maggi: where do you collect your links Anna?

VennyS: only you can feature it

AnnaK: that's the problem: they're made in Frontpage but sit on the intranet

Maggi: ok, Venny, will do it later

AnnaK: I'm thinking of transferring them somehow onto a public webpage, don't know yet how to go about it

Maggi: and your source Anna?

AnnaK: they're mainly Internet links

Maggi: Venny has experience...any ideas?

VennyS: do you know this radio, Anna?

AnnaK: the problem is, that there're many, many pages

VennyS: ESLRadio from Melbourne, Australia.

VennyS: <http://www.eslradio.net/radio.htm>

Maggi: yes, but where do you find them...google?

AnnaK: oh, years of collecting

Maggi: lots of work

AnnaK: yeap

VennyS: where do you put your collection of links?

Maggi: do you check them often to see they still work?

AnnaK: some are specifically geared towards our curriculum, but there are others, such as the four skills, Australiana, etc

AnnaK: my students report if there are dead links

Maggi: good...let them do the work!

AnnaK: Venny, they're on our intranet

Maggi: do they take advantage of it?

AnnaK: sure

VennyS put his collection of links in his MOO

Maggi: or do you assign them in class?

VennyS: take a look at this <http://taimoo.ntjcpa.edu.tw:7000/297>

VennyS: **Maggi**, Yaodong is asking today's topic?

AnnaK: can't open the page, Venny

Maggi: do you think Venny that is a good way to make them available

Maggi: oh, the good things first that work for our students

PantelisC joined the room.

PantelisC: sorry miss I am late!

Maggi: Hi Pantelis

PantelisC: Hi I am back in Wales

VennyS: Hello, Pantelis

PantelisC: happy new year

PantelisC: Hello I am Pantelis and I am studying TEFL and Linguistic in UW Swansea Wales

AnnaK: Venny, I missed your question about the ESL radio

AnnaK: I know it, but I don't use it

Maggi: good, as a student of English maybe you can tell us what helped you most?

VennyS nods to Anna

PantelisC: coming in contact with native speakers

VennyS: Anna, do you hear something about Deaflympic in Melbourne?

Maggi: and when you can't Pantelis?

PantelisC: in relation to teaching my last teacher helped me most because she was laid back and going to her lessons I didn't feel going to something boring but going for a coffee but speaking in English

Maggi: so not a strict diet of grammar and vocabulary but communicative learning Pantelis?

PantelisC: I couldn't come in contact with native speakers during my teenagehood because I was in Greece where we would go for English lessons and get taught boring stuff that I haven't ever really used here in Britain

AnnaK: Venny, I used to know about it a lot, as my friend was deaf and took part in them, but I lost contact with her so I don't know much any more

PantelisC: I believe grammar and vocabulary helps only to pass TOEFL and IELTS

PantelisC: for example don't ask me now when do we use Perfect Continuous!

Maggi: do you use radio in class Venny?

PantelisC: we never used radio

Maggi laughs at Pantelis

Maggi: nor can most native speakers

VennyS: Anna, deaflympic is taking place in Melbourne now and our students flew there this afternoon to join the ending ceremony

PantelisC: once video and this was to analyze the grammar but never got into the ways of expressing your ideas to native speakers

Maggi: so Venny and Anna what do you do to help students express their ideas in English?

AnnaK: I have heaps of students who come to the computer lab just to practice grammar and vocab, they just love it!

PantelisC: they love it but will they love it when they come to Britain

PantelisC: ?

AnnaK: they're in Sydney

Maggi: but does it help them you think to say in English what they are thinking Anna?

AnnaK: why not? some of them know English from their countries, but here they don't know simple expressions used in everyday life, or the names of vegetables, for example

PantelisC: how far does the conversation between them and n. speakers go from the point " Hello---I am from Germany--- nice to meet you--- "what else should I say?"----n.n. speakers negative feeling due to pragmatic untutoredness!

Maggi: by the way Pantelis you can add links that you found helpful

PantelisC: I'll try to find some

PantelisC: what do you students know about the desire of non-imposition in the English society?

Maggi: he has a point Anna

PantelisC: indirectness

Maggi: are the Australians the same?

AnnaK: they learn quickly from other students, teachers

AnnaK: some nationalities learn quicker than others...

Maggi: how much do think culture influences it?

AnnaK: a lot

AnnaK: we talk about culture a lot

Maggi: I do too

AnnaK: we have a series of videos showing such problems

Maggi: I have a student in Singapore for 3 months

Maggi: she hated English

Maggi: somehow she passed level 3

AnnaK: I think teaching ESL is easier than EFL (done both)

Maggi: now she is really practicing for level 4

Maggi: yes, there are major differences

Maggi: for one your students leave class and are confronted with an English environment

AnnaK: though they can avoid it by sticking to their ethnic group

Maggi: Venny has a lot of English crept into Chinese?

Maggi: true, like the Turkish here in Germany

PantelisC:

<http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/ea/politeness/apologiesinarabicandenglish.htm> this might be helpful for the L2 teacher to have such background knowledge

Maggi: German continues to pile up English words

Maggi: thank you Pantelis

Maggi: can I add it to the links?

PantelisC: of course

Maggi: great!

Maggi: Anna anything else you want to share or add before you go to bed?

Maggi: or ask?

AnnaK: my mind is already in bed!

Maggi laughs

AnnaK: I got up at 7, now it's nearly 1am

Maggi: I appreciate your coming

AnnaK: see you guys later

Maggi: sleep well!

AnnaK: **Maggi**, talk to you on Sunday

AnnaK: good night

Maggi: yes indeed

AnnaK left the room (signed off).

PantelisC: <http://www.shu.ac.uk/wpw/politeness/bargiela.htm> for motr

Maggi: ok Venny you are next to go spend time with your girls before they go to bed

Maggi: I thank you for coming

Maggi: those are good Pantelis because British politeness can be confusing

PantelisC: www.nottingham.ac.uk/english/nlc/economidou.pdf for request differences

PantelisC: between Greek and English

Maggi: gestures are another good one to cover

PantelisC: Finnegan has made a good book called Communicating which I have it in my library for decoration purposes yet

PantelisC: anyway do you have any good model for Macwhinney's competition Model

Maggi smiles at Pantelis' skill at decorating

DongC joined the room.

Maggi: Hi Dong

Maggi bows

DongC bow to all!

DongC: hi, **Maggie**

Maggi: Anna had to go to bed

DongC: I tried many times knocking at your office but was told it was unavailable to me

Maggi: oh,

PantelisC: hi Dong

DongC: Hi, Pantelis, nice to meet you.

Maggi: didn't lock it

DongC: finally we meet online, Pant.

Maggi: have to go check it

PantelisC: nice to meet you but unfortunately I will have to go soon

PantelisC: yes

DongC: I thought we would meet online sooner or later.

Maggi: back to class?

PantelisC: however I finished my essay and I will put it on my office links soon

Maggi: it is good

DongC: hope you won't forget online cooperation after you finished your essay.

PantelisC: see you soon and you all have my consent to do whatever you like with my essay!

Maggi: yeah out of sight out of mind

Maggi waves bye

DongC waves to Pant.

PantelisC: except copying without referencing me... love you all

PantelisC: waves bye

PantelisC left the room.

Maggi: I think Venny went to be with his daughters

Maggi: did your evening go well Dong

DongC: I am preparing for the exam papers.:)

Maggi: work

Maggi: are they just written?

DongC: I viewed a photo of August06. who is he?

DongC: working on the cloze now.

Maggi: no idea

Maggi: was he here?

Maggi: online

VennyS is just back from bathing his daughter.

Maggi: thought so

Maggi: Dong just dropped in

VennyS nods

Maggi: well that wasn't bad for a first meeting

VennyS: **Maggi**, how many members in your group?

Maggi: 9 now

VennyS: not bad

VennyS: good beginning

Maggi: a very manageable number but many time zones

VennyS: I was trying to introduce my Prof to Tapped In last week, but

Maggi: I may need to start a discussion thread or have 2 meetings

DongC: back

VennyS: he was too busy to come

Maggi: time is often a factor

DongC: **Maggi**, your professor?

Maggi: no, Venny's

Maggi: I'm freelance

VennyS: but as a prof who taught us CALL while I was in university,

VennyS: he should not be interested in Tapped in

VennyS: forget it.

DongC: no, professors usually don't like online English.

Maggi: wonder why

DongC: they are too academically-minded to like online English.

DongC giggles

Maggi chuckles

Maggi: thought so

VennyS: they know theories but not practical application online

Maggi . o O (or afraid of their tech skills)

DongC: Venny is right.

Maggi: they should get on and see if their theories work

DongC thinks the same.

Maggi . o O (they might be surprised)

Maggi: well I'll wish you both an enjoyable evening

VennyS: You, too

VennyS: I'm going to babysit my kids to sleep

Maggi: the sun is shining for a change here

Maggi bows deeply to both

DongC: I am leaving, too

DongC: sb invited me to try MSN version 7.0

Maggi waves bye

VennyS left the room.

DongC: see you, **Maggi**. hope to meet your classes here soon.

Maggi: have fun Dong!