Organization for Fundamental Education	Key words	Skills for English Conversation, Strategies for Language Learning, Communication Strategies, Programming

Education

Emmanuel Bible College (B.Th)

Professional Background

Hospitality, Private English Classes

Consultations, Lectures, and Collaborative Research Themes

English Communication, Theology, Programming

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Bachelor / Assistant Professor of Foreign Languages

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Main research themes and their characteristics

「Practical Communication in English」

My initial experience in Japan teaching English was with a number of private students. One of my students was an elder that had begun studying English late in his life. He informed me that studying English opened up another world to him. It was perhaps easy for me to take for granted the importance of second language acquisition, but his statement, together with several years of English education experience, helped me gain a great appreciation for it. With the expanding issues of Japanese society, it is apparent that Japan has the need to become much more influential on the world stage. Second language acquisition is essential for Japan to interact with the world and be impactful on a global scale. However, despite a great amount of effort and investment over decades, second language acquisition remains what seems to be an insurmountable barrier in Japan. Similar sentiments could be said of other subjects and their relation to the future of Japan. Questions about the future success and sustainability of Japan are not in short supply. Education of young people has a crucial role for the country's future. It may be tempting to perceive the combination of difficulties that Japan faces as an impending doom. However, today is today, tomorrow is tomorrow, and today, opportunity knocks.

I understand education to be an important foundational aspect of society. I do not believe that education should necessarily be synonymous with imparting information or knowledge. My desire with education is that students can be equipped, enabled, and empowered. This requires that they learn and practice using tools and techniques to do what they intend to do. Also important, if not more so, is the opportunity to use those learned skills. One of the difficulties I have observed for language students in Japan is the lack of opportunity to use English. When opportunities do come up, students experience a range of difficulties using the language for a variety of reasons. My hope is that by providing ample opportunity and practical communication methods within a safe classroom atmosphere, students will gain confidence to use English in non-classroom settings. Students that adopt an approach of continual independent learning will have greater chance of success in their acquisition and ability of a second language. A potential avenue of research related to this may be to examine the combination of ability and motivation and then whether or not certain skills or learning strategies could help students overcome difficulties in language acquisition.

From a young age I have had an interest in technology and it is certainly interesting to be employed at a University of Technology. Japan has in recent years introduced programming curriculum starting in elementary school. This topic is of particular interest for me as I have been learning programming for many years and use it for a variety of purposes both personally and professionally. Being a learner and user of programming provides me with some sensitivity to the difficulties inherent in learning programming. The results of such curriculum remain to be seen, but I view this as another important opportunity for Japans future. One crucial aspect of this is whether or not educators will be able to teach and equip students with the necessary skills to program. Technology changes at a pace that is nearly impossible for educational systems to keep in step with. The result is that students may find that the information they learned is nearly irrelevant when entering the workforce. This topic is an area of interest for me in regards to research. Furthermore, since I have a number of skills related to programming and computing, I am interested in the intersection of language learning and technology. Future research goals may be related to understanding what kind of technology can aid language learners, researches, and teachers.

I have had an unorthodox path getting to where I am today. My studies in theology as well as work and volunteer experience have been greatly influential for me in my approach to life and education. I count it as a privilege to be in this society both as a community member and an educator as it takes steps toward a successful future.

```python
# secret_message.py
1  # Something interesting to try
1  secret_message = "48 70 70 65 21 6b 70 63 21 64 73
   62 64 6c 6a 6f 68 21 75 69 66 21 74 66 64 73 66 75
   21 6e 66 74 74 62 68 66 22 21 4d 66 75 28 74 21 78
   70 73 6c 21 69 62 73 65 21 75 70 21 6e 62 6c 66 21
   75 69 66 21 67 76 75 76 73 66 21 68 73 66 62 75 21
   67 70 73 21 4b 62 71 62 6f 22"
2
3  shift_amount = int(input("Enter shift amount: "))
4
5  decoded = [
6          chr(int(x, 16) + shift_amount)
7          for x in secret_message.split()
8          ]
9
10 print("".join(decoded))
```

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