

*Greetings*

Anne McLellan Howard has passed the baton of newsletter editorship to me. Thanks, Anne, for your leadership of the past four years. And thanks for the job training! I hope to do as good a job as you did. I'll do my best to make the newsletter informative and interesting. Let me thank all of you in advance for your help and support.

Just a few words to introduce myself: I currently teach EFL to mostly first-year students at Kansai Gaidai University in Osaka. Before coming to Gaidai, I was teaching EAP at the English Language Institute of the University of Alabama in the United States. These are two quite different teaching contexts, so Gaidai was a big adjustment for me. However, I've found that my current teaching situation provides more opportunities to teach pragmatics than did my former one. I mean that I have more time to work up lesson materials that deal more specifically with pragmatic aspects of conversational interaction.

For my Master's thesis through Aston University, UK, in 2004, I used Grice's Co-operative Principle to explain a breakdown in communication between ESL students during a lesson in their classroom. It was an interesting investigation, but I haven't pursued that line of investigation any further since then. Instead, recently, I've been working on revising my methodology and lesson materials for an activity for my speaking/listening courses that uses a popular American television program to

teach pragmatics. I'm trying to raise my students' awareness that what people 'say' is not necessarily what they 'mean'. This is tricky business for 19-year-old people who don't have much life experience. They lack so much relevant schemata. However, they tell me that they find the TV show and the lessons really interesting. They certainly pay attention in class! The revisions I'm planning will make the activity more task-based than it is now and thus, will involve the learners more in the activity than they currently are.

I look forward to hearing from you all through your contributions to the newsletter.

Thanks very much.

*Sybil Armstrong*

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