Teaching English Classes in English for Novice Level Students

NANBU NORIN (AGRICULTURAL) HIGH SCHOOL AYA TSUHA

MARK LEON-GUERRERO

What is Nambu Norin? What do they learn?

5 specialties (brief explanations)

- 1. Growing Rice, Vegetable, and Fruits 食料生產科
- 2. Raising Animals (Cows, Chickens, and Pigs) Bio-resource engineering 生物資源科
- 3. Producing processed foods (e.g. bacon)食品加工科
- 4. Gardening (e.g., building Japanese Garden) 環境創造科
- 5. Flower Arrangements 生活デザイン科

1. Rice, Vegetable, and Fruits(食料生產科)



Harvesting potatoes with kids from the neighborhood child day care



Growing Melons

2. Bio-Resource Engineering (生物資源科:植物資源コース)



By using Bio-technology, students have been working on reproducing Okinawan-native plants which are in danger of extinction

Growing chickens, pigs, and cows (生物資源科: 畜産資源コース)



Students learn how to grow animals and how to produce meat and other processed food, such as bacon, ham and hamburger patties Students learn the skill of cutting meat with a knife





Burning pig's face skin so that we can eat it as Chira-gah (チラガー)



Students take care of animals by themselves. They figure out what types of feed would be best for the animals to grow to a decent weight in order to produce good meat

3. Producing Processed Foods (食品加工科)



Students learn how they can change crops into other processed food or drink

e.g.

- 1. brewing wine vinegar
- 2. making miso from soy beans
- 3. making roasted chicken





Marinating
the chicken
is one of the
procedures
of making
roasted
chicken

4. Gardening(環境創造科)



In this course, students learn how to build a garden by using CAD(Computer Aided Design) software.
Gardening seems to be simple, but it needs several types of skills and knowledge. e.g.

- What to plant
- Where to plant the seeds
- How to carry big, heavy trees safely
- What kind of soil a plant favors



Students' work in downtown Naha

5. Flower Arrangements (生活デザイン科:フラワーアレンジメントコース)



Students learn the ways to use flowers and other plants, which they grow by themselves.

What do they making in their class?

- Bouquet
- Corsage
- Christmas Wreath



Students also learn color coordination in order to make the stronger colored flowers more attractive.

Expectations of Ministry of Education 文科省が期待していること

According to "English Education Reform Plan Corresponding to Globalization," presented by Ministry of Education, we are expected to:

文科省が提示している「グローバル化に対応した英語教育改革計画」によると・・・:

- 1. Nurture the ability to understand abstract contents for a wide range of topics and the ability to fluently communicate with English speaking persons. 幅広い話題について抽象的な内容を理解できる、英語話者とある程度流暢にやりとりができる能力を養う
- 2. Classes will be conducted in English with high level linguistic activities (presentations, debates, negotiations). 授業を英語で行うと共に、言語活動を高度化する(発表・討論・交渉等)

Background of their expectations 期待の背景にあるものは?

First of all, why does the Ministry of Education expect us to conduct classes in English? What is their purpose? (そもそもどうして英語の授業を英語で行うのか?その狙いは?)

According to COURSE OF STUDY FOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS FOREIGN LANGUAGES (ENGLISH).... 高等学校学習指導要領によれば・・・ (Handout # 2)

"..... in order to enhance the opportunities for students to be exposed to English, transforming classes into real communication scenes." = make an authentic situation
「生徒が英語に触れる機会を充実するとともに、授業を実際のコミュニケーションの場面とするため」

They also say, "Consideration should be given to use English in <u>accordance with students'</u> <u>level of comprehensions</u>"

同時に、「生徒の理解の程度に応じた英語を用いるよう十分配慮する」とも書かれている。



How can we understand that ?

We could translate their expectations as follows.... (文科省の提示を以下のように解釈できないでしょうか?)

1. Since the Ministry of Education says, "Consideration should be given to use English in <u>accordance with students' level of comprehensions</u>", it means that the classes in low-English level high schools <u>do not always have to be carried out in English "with high level linguistic activities such as debate, negotiation, and presentation"</u>

"生徒の理解に応じた英語を用いるように"と提示されているので、英語力の低い生徒に対しては「ディベート、交渉、プレゼンテーションなどのような言語活動を高度化」することを想定した英語による英語の授業をやらなくては!と思う必要はないのではないか?

2. but we should try our best to use materials as they say "that are useful in deepening the understanding of the ways of life and cultures of Japan and foreign countries, raising interest in language and culture, and developing respectful attitudes toward these elements".

しかし、一方で、学習指導要領にもあるように教材作成・使用において、私たちは「外国や我が国の生活や文化についての理解を深めるとともに、言語や文化に対する関心を高め、これらを尊重する態度を育てるのに役立つ」内容か否かを見極めて、教材を作成・使用する必要はある

How novice are their English Skills?

The Average Score of Prefectural Senior High School Entrance Exams for the last 3 years

☆ English ☆

Average Year score	2014	2013	2012
Nanbu Norin (南部農林)	15.5	16.9	16.9
Okinawa Prefectural Average (県全体)	28.2	27.6	30.4

Another concern • • •

Concern # 1: Is English the only subject that they might have difficulty understanding during class?



Probably not · · ·

The Average Score of Prefectural Senior High School Entrance Exams for the last 3 years

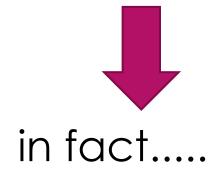
☆Japanese ☆

Average Year Score	2014	2013	2012
Nanbu-Norin (南部農林)	19.8	17.0	17.3
Okinawa Prefectural Average (県全体)	28.7	24.5	27.9

What does this mean?

Our students might have difficulty understanding not only English, but also Japanese class even though Japanese is their 1st language.

英語の授業だけでなく国語の授業も理解するのに四苦八苦しているのではないだろうか



According to our Japanese teachers in Nanbu Norin.... (南農の国語科職員によると・・・)

Students have difficulties with: (国語の授業においても以下のような問題を抱える生徒がいる)

- 1. understanding what a teacher wants them to do = cannot understand teacher's instruction (教師の指示が理解できない・何をすべきかわからない)
- 2. writing Hiragana correctly in order (ひらがなを 5 0 音順に書けない)
- 3. understanding the content of textbooks, especially when the content is not (教科書の内容が理解できない)
- 4. reading between the lines (行間を読めない)
 - = It seems that they don't have much interest in reading fantasy or essay type of reading materials since they have difficulties with having abstract images or having imagination.

(小説や随筆等の内容におもしろさを見いだせない。 抽象的なことをイメージしたりすることが難しい様子)

5. taking notes in short time. They take a lot of time for note taking. (板書にものすごく時間がかかる)

Concern # 2

Do you have students who have trouble with.....? こんな生徒いませんか?

- 1. recognizing the alphabet correctly e.g. misspelling 【 a vs. o】 【b vs. d】 【p vs. q】 【v vs. w】 (文字をきちんと認識できない ミススペルをよくする)
- 2. taking a lot of time to write letters and words written on the board to their handouts or notebooks (板書された内容を書き写すのにものすごく時間がかかる)
- 3. keeping words/sentences on the line(文字の形がそろわない、直線上にかけない)
- 4. reading the same phrases or lines again and again(同じ箇所を繰り返し読む)

They might have problems not only in their English ability, but also with their visual ability. = they simply cannot see objects properly. (単純に見えていない可能性がある)

We can use some activities which can improve their vision in our classes.





Activities for students who may have troubles in their vision (見え方に問題がある生徒に対する活動)

Activity 1: <u>Alphabet search</u> (Handout# 3) (both small and large letters)

Activity 2: <u>Figuring out what letter is</u> written on your back







What else can we do in class?

How can we make English fun, but also educational at the same time?

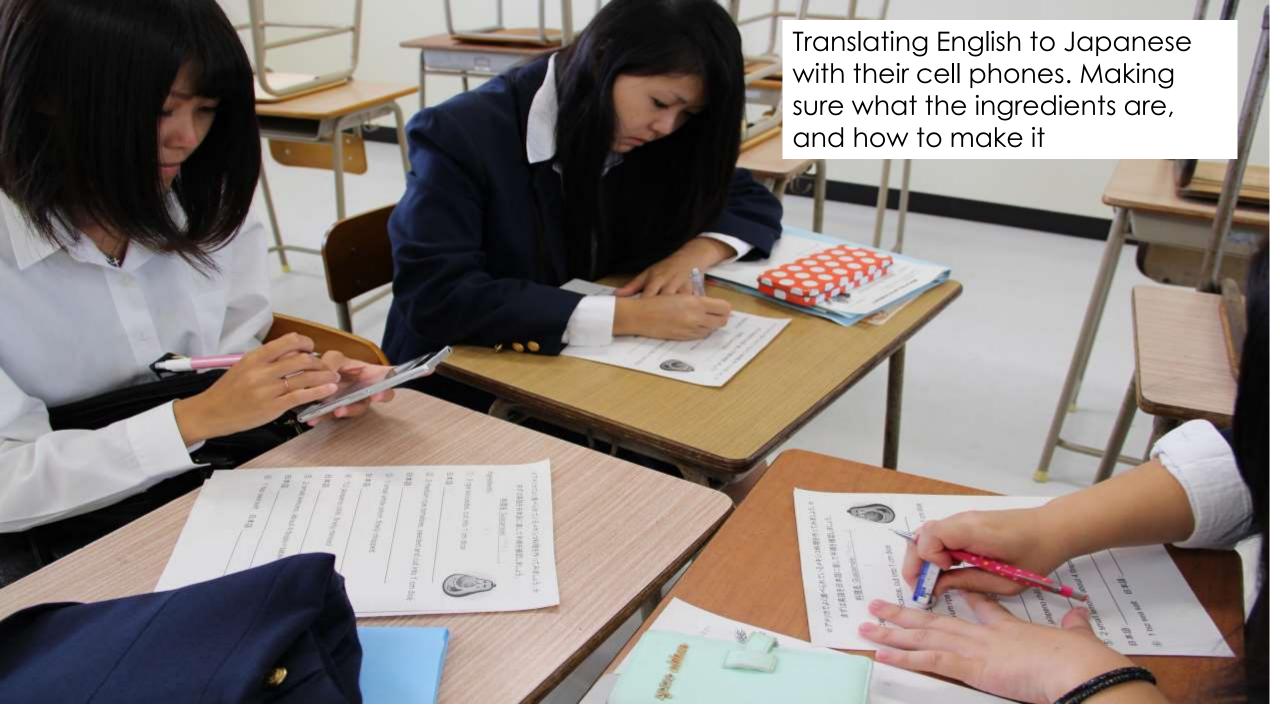
In other words, what kind of materials are "useful in deepening the understanding of the ways of life and cultures of Japan and foreign countries, raising interest in language and culture, and developing respectful attitudes toward these elements"

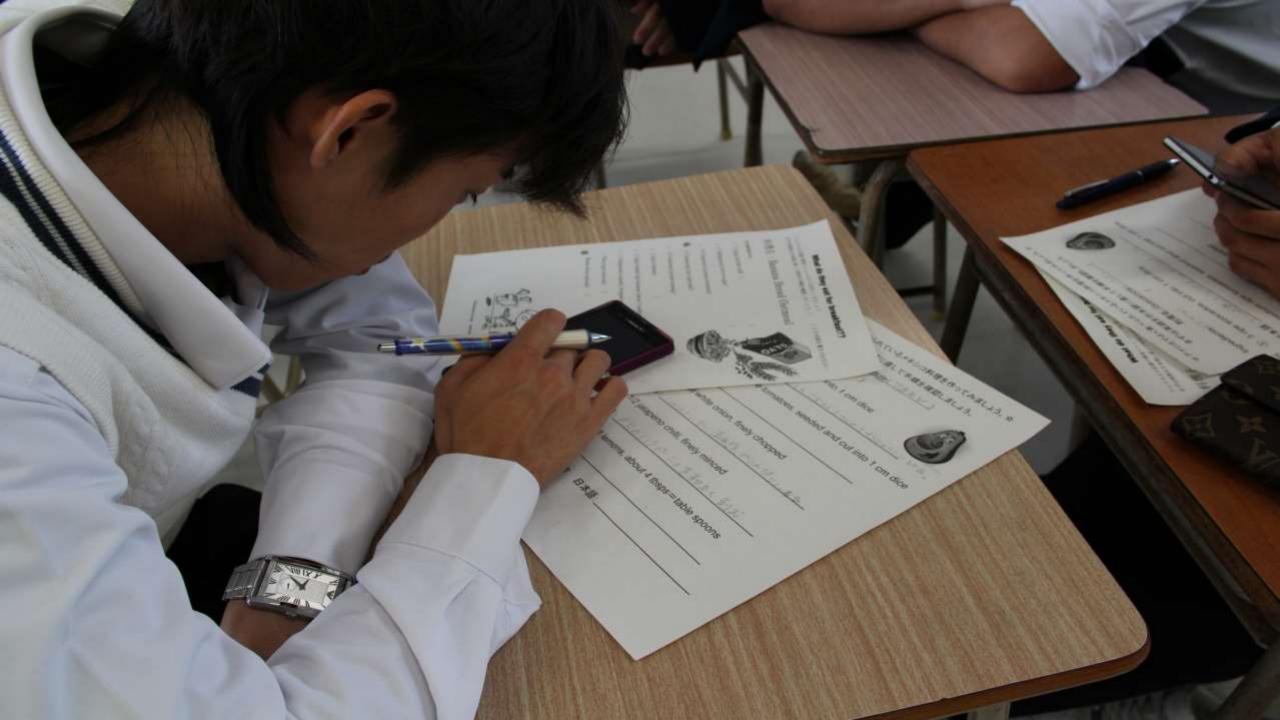
学習指導要領でうたわれている、「教材で取り扱いたい内容」を どのように授業に取り入れるか?具体的な例は?

Activity 3: Introducing recipes and cooking (Handout #4)

[Justification of this activity] it can be related to deepening "the understanding of the way of life and cultures of foreign countries".

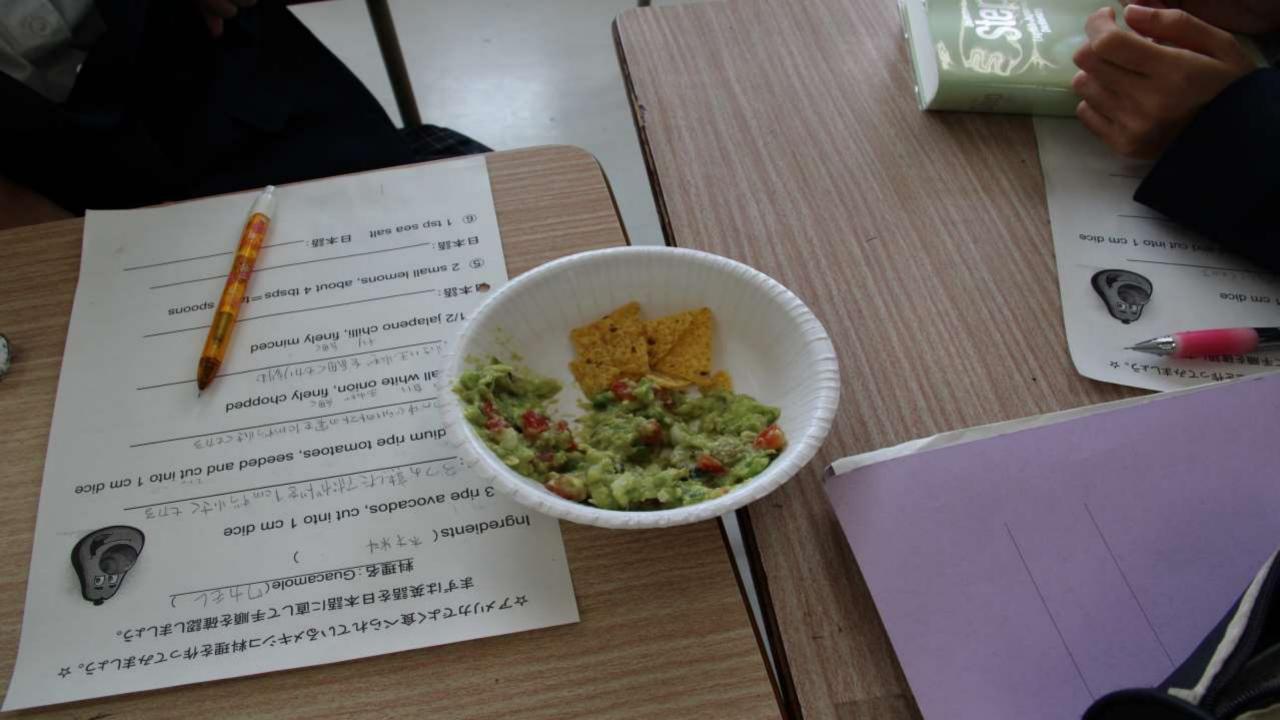
【この活動の妥当性】 この活動は "外国の文化や生活習慣についての理解を深める"ことに関連づけられる













Activity 4: <u>Using the map of Japan/world map</u> (Handout #5)

[Justification of this activity] it can relate to the "geography of Japan and other countries" which is said in "curriculum design and the treatment of the content" in Course of Study

【この活動の妥当性】 この活動は"日本や外国の地理的なことに理解を深める"ことに 関連づけられる





How can we make the activities simple and workable enough for the students to understand?

生徒が理解できるよう、いかにしてシンプルで有効なアクティビティにするか?

 $\stackrel{\wedge}{\sim}$ **Tips** $\stackrel{\wedge}{\sim}$ (from my own personal experience and my intsructors at a grad school....)

- 1. When you make an handout, choose big font sizes (= easy to read for students who have trouble with their vision), insert pictures (= pictures make a handout more fun to work with)
- プリントを作る際は、なるべく文字を大きくし(= 視覚に問題がある生徒のためにも読みやすいものを作成する)、文字だけにせず必ず写真やイラストを入れる(= 絵があることによって、文字だけのプリントよりは取り組んでみようと思わせる効果がある)。
- 2. Give instructions of activities (e.g. games) both orally and visually, since there are always two types of learners; visual vs. audio. Write brief directions of the game on a handout or on a board.

ゲームの進め方などのアクティビティの流れは口頭と筆記の両方で行う。学習者には常に視覚優位・聴覚優位がいるため。ゲームの進め方などは黒板やプリントにも書いてあげる。

Thank you for your attendance and patient listening!

If you have further questions or want to share thoughts with me, please feel free to contact me at;

Aya Tsuha: ooshiaya@open.ed.jp

TEL / FAX: 098-886-5006 Nambu Norin Senior High School