EMI in the 21st Century Classroom in Higher Education: Implications and Strategies

Yilin Sun, Seattle Colleges, USA
yilinsun@sesol.com; yilin@seattlecolleges.edu

Abstract:

Over the last 50 years, the field of ELT has witnessed a significant transformation in every aspect of teaching and learning. Today the ELT field is diverse, complicated, multifaceted and ‘glocal’. As a result of the “glocalization” of higher education and with the English language becoming a global lingua franca (ELF), English as a Medium of Instruction (EMI) has become a fast-growing trend in the world. The increasing interest in EMI research and curriculum development has influenced the reforms in educational planning and language policy in many countries and regions including Taiwan.

In this 1.5 day professional development workshop, the first speaker will focus on recent major transformations in the global ELT field and how such transformations have influenced the development of EMI in higher education in Asia. She will address the following questions: What are the 21st century learning skills? How can we implement them in an EMI classroom? What are the major driving forces that have changed the way we teach and learn in higher education? How can educators teach effectively in the 21st century context? The speaker will also share successful EMI examples from other universities and discuss practical strategies that participants can use and potential pitfalls they need to be aware in their own EMI course design in order to prepare students for the competitive and glocalized 21st Century society and beyond. Participants will also have opportunities to work in groups to apply the information in their own EMI course design.

Bio: Dr. Yilin Sun, tenured professor at Seattle Colleges, USA, received her Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics/Curriculum & Instruction from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE)/University of Toronto, Canada and her BA in English Literature and Pedagogy from Central China Normal University. She served as President of TESOL International Association (2013-2016). TESOL International Association is the largest international professional association of its kind in the world. This is the first time in TESOL’s 50 years history that an Asian nonnative English speaking female ELT professional served as president of TESOL. She also served as Chair of the Affiliate Leadership Council of TESOL in 2007 and President of Washington Association for the Education of Speakers of Other Languages (WAESOL) in 2003 and 2007.

Dr. Sun has over 29 years of experience in the field of TESOL as a MA-TESL teacher trainer, a researcher, a classroom teacher, and a program leader with a variety of higher educational institutions in China, Macau, Canada and U.S.A. In 2011-2012, Dr. Sun worked as a Fulbright Senior Scholar in Taiwan coordinating the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Education Program and teaching TESOL graduate courses as a Visiting Professor at the National Taiwan Normal University. She is also an English Language Specialist for the U.S. Department of State and has conducted teacher training workshops in many countries including Cambodia, China, South Korea, Laos, Russia and Thailand.

She is the author and co-author of books, book chapters, and research papers in refereed professional journals. She also serves as Chief Editor for the new series, Foreign Language Teacher Education and Development--Selected Works of Renowned TESOL Experts published by Shanghai Academic Publishing Center for Foreign Language Education, Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press. Over the years, Dr. Sun has also frequently been invited to give keynote, plenary and featured speeches at national and international conferences.
Her research interests include curriculum development, program assessment and evaluation, L2 reading, vocabulary learning, critical thinking, classroom-based action research, teacher education, ESP/EAP and non-native English speaking teachers (NNEST) in the ELT field.