

Title of Session: Benkyoukai - Out of the Fishbowl

Moderator: Keiko Schneider

Guest Speaker: Shun Ito

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Room: ASO

RickohGuest1 joined the room.

RickohGuest1: I am at Ed-Media conference in Hawaii on borrowed computer !

KeikoSc: Great!

RickohGuest1: what will happen now?

KeikoSc: Looks like we have good amount of audience today.

BJ: John Southworth asked me today if anyone from the Ed-Media conference was using Tapped In

RickohGuest1: Hi Shunil...

BJ . o O (now I can tell him yes :-))

KeikoSc: I just wanted to point out, if you go through actions... detach...

KeikoSc: The chat window will get bigger.

JenniferAL: Keiko, I have a student from China in my English summer school class. He speaks very little English. Do you have any ideas of sites that I can go to to find pictures of say a classroom with the names of everything listed on a drawing? Can't find anything online yet.

KeikoSc: Are we ready for benkyoukai?

RickohGuest1: YES... lets go !

KeikoSc: First of all, I would like to thank and welcome you all!

KeikoSc bows

KeikoSc: Today's presenter is Shun Ito.

RickohGuest1: bows back..

Shunil: Bows to all.

KeikoSc: First let's introduce each other.

KeikoSc: I am Keiko Schneider, the organizer of the benkyoukai

KeikoSc bows

KeikoSc . o O (please intro...)

RickohGuest1: I am Richard Harrison of Nagoya University, presently in Hawaii

JenniferAL: I'm Jennifer, a student at San Diego State University

DawnG: I am Dawn Giesler, a student at San Diego State University

RobR: I am Rob Rankin, I teach Japanese to grades Prep to 6 at a primary school in Melbourne

YolandaN: Hello. Yes, I am from San Diego and I teach 9th grade English at Hoover High School

GretchenK: hi everyone, I'm Gretch, I just finished the mult subject cred program with SDSU

RamonaL: Thank you! I am glad I found the session!

Shunil: I was attending summer seminar at SDSU two summers ago.

ShuniI: Out of the Fish Bowl, yes.
KeikoSc: Today's presentation is based on his short paper.
KeikoSc: Anybody is familiar?
RickohGuest1: yes I looked at it.
GretchenK: I am not familiar with the paper what is it about?
ShuniI: While KeikoS is trying to show the page, I'll introduce myself.
KeikoS: <http://www.netlearne.com/sensei/index.htm>
DeniseGuest4: may i ask who the chat leader is
KeikoSc: If you click on the link it will take you to his paper.
ShuniI: I teach EFL course at Bunkyo Gakuin College in Tokyo.
KeikoSc: I am going to ask Shun sensei to give a brief summary in a minute
GretchenK: thank you
ShuniI: I see so many people attending today.
RickohGuest1: It is a good title !
ShuniI: And the presentation I'm supposed to do is really all in that page plus links to my class lessons.
RickohGuest1: Can we have your e-mail Shun-san?
ShuniI: But two pillars of my whole programs are one task-based thematic projects plus interactions with authentic audience on the Net.
DeniseGuest4: shunil, do you have a webpage that describes your background
KeikoSc: Denise, I will paste benkyoukai main page.
KeikoSc: His bio is there, hold on.
DeniseGuest4: thx
KeikoS joined the room.
ShuniI: Those two things when presented with themes of interest to the age-level group. you can motivate them for autonomous exploration leading to a quantity of web-reading.
KeikoS: <http://www.sabotenweb.com/bookmarks/about/34thbenkyoukai.html>
ShuniI: Problem with Japanese college education of EFL is discussed in my paper.
ShuniI: But teachers and students prefer to stay in a fish bowl.
GretchenK: a fish bowl because we feel safe?
ShuniI: Never getting out of it to swim out to the open seas where they can meet and communicate with all kinds of fish.
GretchenK: easier not to explore?
KeikoS: Jennifer, if you haven't read the paper, it might be helpful
ShuniI: They feel safe in there yes.
RickohGuest1: is Japan a fishbowl?
ShuniI: A kind of, yes.
JenniferAL: ok, will do
ShuniI: So much inner directed.
RickohGuest1: Nice clean safe water?
ShuniI: That's what teachers try to provide.
ShuniI: Segregate from outside world.
RickohGuest1: Here in Hawaii it is like being between the sea and a fishbowl - Aquarium?
ShuniI: But I decided they should get out.
KeikoS . o O (ooo, that is good)

JenniferAL: How did you choose your areas of concentration?

TiffanyK: Get out and do what?

RickohGuest1: Use REAL English ?

GretchenK: Rick, do you mind?

ShuniI: Read the Real English for communication.

ShuniI: And listen to Real English.

TiffanyK: So ,you recommend online interaction to promote English fluency or real life interaction?

ShuniI: Not the kind teachers make up just for the classroom.

KellyS: so, informal English?

ShuniI: The first thing I have to do is to make them wish to express.

TiffanyK: What is the incentive?

KeikoS: <http://www.netlearne.com/sensei/index.htm>

ShuniI: If I bring them to TI to meet, say, Taiwan students and their teacher, they start expressing themselves. The girls who stay tight-lipped in the classroom..

ShuniI: In Japan, young people are quite taken by mail exchanges via cell phones.

KeikoSc smiles

ShuniI: They know it is not hard and they enjoy it.

RamonaL: I found your paper to be very interesting. Because these students are conscious of the fact that they cannot speak perfectly, they are hesitant to speak up or utilize what they perceive to be unpolished language skills, thus never using their skills in real world settings and furthermore limiting their learning to a text book approach. You have incorporated the world wide web as a way to practice their new language skills, while still allowing them the privacy of person; they cannot be seen while chatting on an online session, and may be more willing to speak without eyes watching them. In addition you have attempted to incorporate topics into their language that they want to explore, that they find interest in and therefore have self-motivation.

KeikoSc . o O (actions... detach to make the chat window bigger....)

ShuniI: You got it exactly right.

YolandaN: It's also less intimidating to chat on-line than in front of a classroom full of people

ShuniI: Correct.

DawnG: Are you focusing on online interactions rather than real-life interactions?

RobR: Shun san, do you see the next step as videoconferencing where the students can see each other?

ShuniI: Text based chat is easier for my students.

GretchenK: do you see any major fallbacks to online chats?

ShuniI: Face-to-face is intimidating.

DawnG: personal interaction

DawnG: is important

ShuniI: To RonR, no

TiffanyK: This could work here in the US for ELL students who are struggling with mainstream English classrooms.

YolandaN: my only concern is that they are not verbalizing/vocalizing the language.

They shouldn't be afraid to hear themselves speak the language.

RickohGuest1: I also use this for learning Japanese as a foreign language...

GretchenK: yes, I see MANY benefits but the hardest part for me is learning pronunciation, do you think this is effected?

ShuniI: Online chats are hard to arrange with the time difference.

NatalieK: But what about developing accents, which come with speaking the language out loud?

JenniferAL: How do you deal with the lack of facial expression or gestures that help to emphasize meaning?

KellyS: Yes, is some meaning lost?

KeikoSc: OK, let's give shun sensei time to take a quick breath...

RamonaL: Do you see other classes/subject areas where this type of self-learning would be helpful? Also, do you find that the students, as they become more confident and more willing to communicate in English?

RickohGuest1: We have to work within the constraints of the technology..

ShuniI: Pronunciation is the hardest for Japanese students.

YolandaN: developing accents comes with hearing and speaking the language

DeniseGuest4: how do people distinguish between real feelings and sarcasm TiffanyK: What about an understanding of body language?

KeikoSc: hold any further questions for now.

KeikoSc . o O (please)

YolandaN: smiles

ShuniI: I don't go for content-based instructions.

ShuniI: Net can provide a lot of listening opportunities.

NatalieK: Really? What do you mean?

ShuniI: Sarcasm and idiomatic usages are for advanced students. Mine are lower intermediate.

ShuniI: Not as much as for reading but go to esl-lab.com or Real_English web site.

ShuniI: Listening facilities are on the increase.

NatalieK: At these sites the students can listen to what exactly?

DeniseGuest4: so are those labs at schools only, or can people participate in their home

KeikoSc: ahhh....

ShuniI: Try Randall's <http://www.esl-lab.com> for yourself.

YolandaN: It seems that once students become comfortable with hearing their own voice they become a little more confident with taking risks

KeikoSc: It would be most beneficial if we could ask Shun about his own project

RamonaL: Do your students communicate on line with other lower intermediate students, or are they communicating with adults that have a higher English proficiency?

ShuniI: Japanese schools are very much closed which presents problems.

RickohGuest1: Can you tell us about your project ShuniI?

ShuniI: So I keep all my web pages on the Internet, not on school server, so students can access from home.

KeikoS: <http://www.netlearne.com/sensei/index.htm>

ShuniI: Online chats must be prearranged and you see the logs on the Talking Gold Fish link

ShuniI: in the page KeikoS gave you.

ShuniI: Please see what the girls say to teachers and students in other countries.

DeniseGuest4: thanks keikos and shunil for the links to your webpages

ShuniI: Any more questions?

YolandaN: How successful has your project been?

NatalieK joined the room.

ShuniI: I've taught more or less like this for four years.

GretchenK: Shunil, what do you find most important about your lessons/project?

ShuniI: And students seem to like it.

GretchenK: best advice?

DawnG: what were some of the drawbacks of the project?

RickohGuest1: I have to go...bfn

ShuniI: At end of an academic years, I find they thought it was so hard but so much fun at the same time.

YolandaN: How do you assess their progress?

ShuniI: Drawbacks - the teacher has to spend so much time hunting for resources, creating web pages, etc.

KeikoS: <http://www.sabotenweb.com/bookmarks/about/34thbenkyoukai.html>

ShuniI: I try to evaluate performance. Not by grammatical accuracy or misspellings, etc.

KeikoSc nods solemnly

ShuniI: Participation is important.

KellyS: how much time do you spend on the project on average?

RamonaL: What do they turn in to you for evaluation? Or do you mean that you observe them while they work?

YolandaN: Your project sounds wonderful Shunil. I'm going to pass along the webpages and hopefully reduce classroom anxiety.

KeikoSc . o O (that much question first..)

ShuniI: Ramona, there are some form mails built into the web site, they submit them or write e-mail.

ShuniI: In Tapped In chat I counted how many utterances. Ranged from 50 to 1

JenniferAL: sounds interesting

RamonaL: Ah, that makes sense. That sounds very effective.

ShuniI: Thematic modules end in requiring students to submit answers to question.

RamonaL: How have you built your site? Using what program(s)?

ShuniI: I want to learn how to ask them effective questions. Does anyone know a paper or a book about asking questions?

YolandaN: Thank You Shunil and Keiko. (I must sign off now)

ShuniI: Ramona, I use Dreamweaver MX.

KeikoSc: Shun sensei I had something like that on my online certificate ShuniI: Thanks for coming Yolanda.

YolandaN left the room (signed off).

ShuniI: Thanks for the information, Keiko-sensei.

RamonaL: When you set up the section for them to submit questions, is that an option in Dreamweaver? Where do the answers to their questions go (for your viewing)? Are they collected somewhere that you can then go view them?

ShuniI: DW has provisions for form mail but you need a program at the server side.

ShuniI: The mails come to my mail address.

RamonaL: Very neat. Thank you for your time and sharing your ideas. I am very impressed. I must go now, but thank you again.

ShuniI: Thank you for coming Ramona.
RamonaL left the room (signed off).
ShuniI: Who are here now?
GretchenK: me
GretchenK: listening intently
KeikoSc: me
NatalieK: me too
ShuniI: Any questions?
DawnG: me
RobR: I am exploring the dreamweaver program at present. A recent development is the use of .NET facility which would enable you to set up a database to receive the student data/responses. Have you considered this ShuniI?
DawnG: I feel that all of my questions have been answered
DawnG: this was a very informative chat
KeikoSc smiles to Dawn
ShuniI: No, I'm still mastering the basics.
ShuniI: I'm glad Dawn.
ShuniI: Keiko-sensei,
ShuniI: We could close this session now.
RobR: If I can learn more about this I will share it with you via e-mail if you like?
KellyS: Thanks, I learned a lot from this
KellyS: a lot of great ideas
ShuniI: Thanks, please do RobR.
KeikoSc: Well, thank you so much Shun sensei.
GretchenK: ShuniI, it is good to see a teacher who deeply cares about his or her students' academic and social success!
TiffanyK: Thanks for your time, very informative
KeikoSc: Thank you so much everybody for your active participation.
ShuniI: Hope it helps.
KellyS: Thank you
JenniferAL: thank you
ShuniI: Nice of you to say that Gretchen.
KeikoSc: Or event URL that has Shun sensei's bio
RobR: Thank you for sharing your interests with us ShuniI: Thank you all, I enjoyed talking to you.
DawnG: Thank you
KeikoSc: Shun sensei, gokurou sama deshita.
KeikoSc bows
KeikoSc: Thanks all for coming!
GretchenK: Bye
ShuniI: Domo Arigato Gozaimashita.
ShuniI: Bye all.
KeikoSc: Thank you, Shun sensei. I will write to you again.
KeikoSc . o O (and looking forward to your osenbei)
KeikoSc grins
ShuniI: Please do, I'll turn into my office now.

