

The Role of OPI and DA in Classroom Teaching

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What Will Cover

- Who I am—self introduction
- What we have achieved
- How we did it—methods and approaches
 - 1) Goal-oriented Curricula
 - 2) Goal-oriented Instruction
 - 3) Diagnostic assessment & Diagnostic teaching
- Drawbacks of the ILR driven teaching
- Q & A



Self-introduction

- OPI (Oral Proficiency Interview) Tester since 2004
- Online Diagnostic Assessment (ODA) Developer 2007-2014
- Diagnostic Assessment (DA) Specialist since 2016
- Student Learning Specialist (SLS) since Aug. 2016
- Aware of what to teach, how to teach, how to help students prepare for their final tests, and how to train students to become active and responsible learners



What We Have Achieved

- More than half of Chinese graduates reach **2+, 2+, 2**
- DLI has been pushing to raise the graduation standard from 2, 2 , 1+ to 2+, 2+ 2, 50-60 percent of Chinese graduates have reached this goal of 2+, 2+ ,2 after 63 weeks of study.
- Some languages, 20-30 percent graduates reach this goal.
- Chinese is one of the most difficulty languages to learn.



How We Did It

- We have sufficient number of OPI and DA specialists in Chinese school which has made a big impact on our output.
- We have been intentionally and skillfully training our students from day 1 on how to reach the finish line with high mark.
- Students are repeatedly to be reminded that they should and can reach 2+, 2+ and 2 upon graduation.



Methods/Approaches

Goal-oriented Curricula

- Map out the goal step by step. Each semester has its goal to reach (Semester 1: L1 to L1+. Semester 2: L1+ to L2. Semester 3: L 2+ to L3.
- All teaching materials (textbooks, HW books, listening books, supplementary and authentic materials), are designed or chosen purposefully to help students build up their target levels semester by semester.



Methods/Approaches

Goal-oriented Instruction

- This goal has been systematically interwoven into every lesson, every activity and every assignment on the daily bases.
- Diagnostic teaching is highly encouraged, teachers are proactive and driving.
- Successful teaching strategies are shared all the time. Every graduate class has to do ACR (After Class Report), a platform to share and reflect.



Methods/Approaches

My approaches

- One stone kill several birds
- On going assessment, big and small
- Individualized homework assignment
- Wearing many hats at the same time
- Train students to be responsible learners



Methods/Approaches

One Stone kill several birds

- Make connection between lessons, review old lesson, study present one and preview new one can be done in one lesson.
- Intentionally let students practice productive skills (speaking and writing) at early stage.

For example: a lesson “my weekend” (about 2 month of Chinese study) in Semester I, students are trained to narrate their own weekends in both writing and speaking. To narrate a past event is an OPI required task.



Methods/Approaches

On going assessment, big and small

- In the classroom, assessment opportunities are abundant. Weekly & Monthly and special DA
- On the spot feedback is a quick, effective one, need to be aware of how to correct students.
- Learning is on an going process, so does assessment. None stop assessing and reflecting.
- Adjust teaching methods, teaching materials and assignment accordingly.



Methods/Approaches

Individualized homework assignment

- The purpose of HW is to review and preview, how this purpose can be really materialized depends on how the assignment are given. (priority and interleaving)

- Individualized HW is an effective way to target on student's week area and make a difference.

For example: Vocab study in HW assignment. "force" students to let go of vocab list and study in context.



Methods/Approaches

Wearing many hats at the same time

- Teacher
- OPI tester
- DA (Diagnostic Assessment) specialist
- SLS (Student Learning Service) specialist
- Counselor
- Cheerleader
- Babysitter



Methods/Approaches

Train students to be responsible learners

- Recognize, nurture & foster students' intrinsic motivation.
- Help students to become autonomous & independent learners (build a habit of self-start, self-monitor and self-evaluate, take responsibility for their own learning).
- Introduce learning strategies to help them develop a full range of learning skills and strategies.



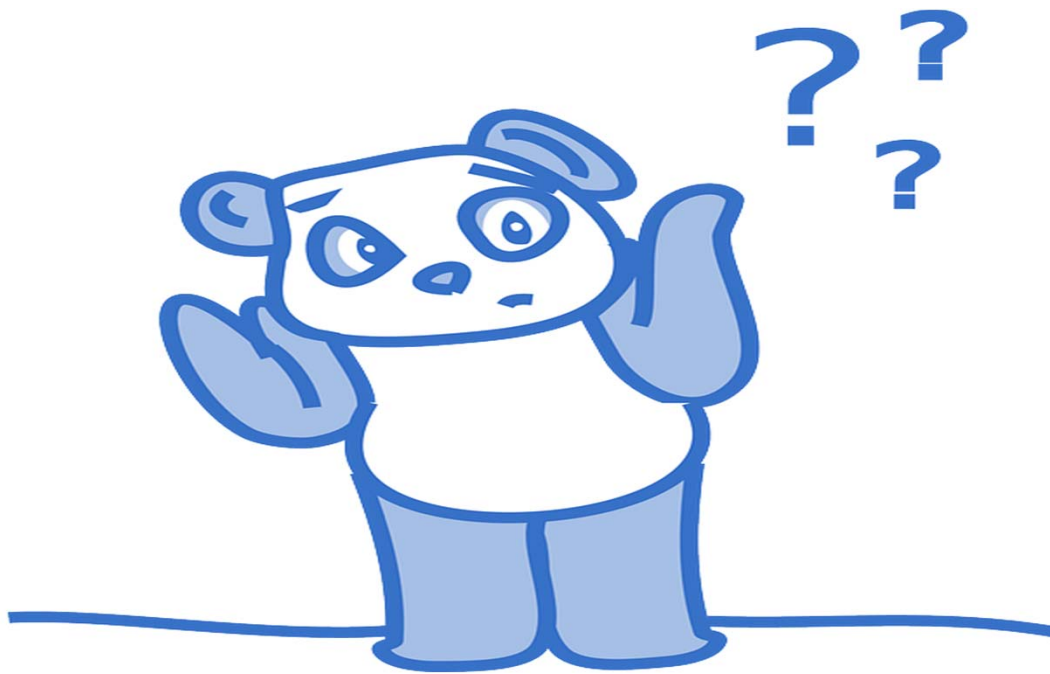
Methods/Approaches

Drawbacks of the ILR driven teaching

- Standardized & unified performance, especially in OPI. (Wash-back of OPI: students can perform test related tasks, not speak in a nature manner)
- High scores and low abilities (intensive training, lack of time and room to digest, to go deeper and broader in learning, easy come, easy go)
- Put the cart before the horse (ILS achievement driving)



Q and A



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