



University of Tikrit

College of Education for Women

English Department

Subject: Teaching English as a Foreign or Second Language

2nd year

Lecturer: Sahar Azzam Neimah

SAHAR.ZA@tu.edu.iq

Exploration for Teaching

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❖ What is teaching?

Teaching: is a set of procedures which are followed by the teachers in the classroom to give a systematic information (Nunan, 2003).

❖ What are ways to explore teaching?

1. Read journal articles and books about teaching and learning.
2. Read teacher narratives.
3. Attend professional conferences.
4. Establish a mentoring relationship.
5. Put together a teaching portfolio.
6. learn another language.
7. Do action research.
8. Do self-observation.
9. Observe other teachers.
10. Talk with other teachers.
11. Keep a teacher journal

First: read journal articles and books about teaching and learning.

Reading books, will help you gain knowledge about ESL and EFL teaching.

There are many topics that you have to read them in order to explore teaching:

- ❖ Lesson Planning, Mixed Level teaching, Project Work
- ❖ Classroom Management, Cooperative Learning Teaching Pronunciation, Vocabulary and Grammar

Second: read teachers narratives.

A number of anthologies have been published on teachers' own teaching and learning. They offer other teachers, especially those new to teaching, glimpses into the realities of teaching.

Third: another way to work on development of our teaching and ourselves as teachers is to attend professional conferences

The conferences are good opportunities to hear what teachers in your own area are doing in their classrooms, and good opportunities to present your own techniques or action research.

Fourth: another way to explore our teaching is through establishing a mentoring relationship with another teacher.

Define Mentoring relationships:

Mentoring is an interpersonal, ongoing, situated, supportive and informative professional relationship between two or more individuals, one of whom (the mentor) has more experience in the profession, craft, or skill in question.

Fifth: A teaching portfolio is another additional way to explore and develop our teaching.

What does portfolio mean?

Portfolio means gathering of your reports, files, or documents that you have made about your teaching and learning processes.

How putting together a portfolio helps teachers?

Putting together a portfolio helps teachers to make sense of what they have learned, provides chances for them to think about teaching and learning, demonstrates their competencies, and recognizes the complexities of learning to teach.

What kind of documents can be included in the portfolio?

1. Papers written for courses
2. Class presentations
3. Professional conference presentations
4. Original teaching materials
5. Reflective journal entries
6. Video or audiotapes of teaching
7. Reflective observation reports
8. Syllabi
9. Letters of recommendation
10. Reports on observations by others
11. Evaluation reports
12. Vitae
13. A statement of teaching and learning philosophy

Sixth: another way to explore our teaching as a language teachers is to learn another language.

What are the advantages of learning another language or how it can help us as language teachers?

1. We can better understand the challenges that learners face.
2. We can go more insight into understanding language.
3. By assuming the role of learner, we can gain insight into ways of teaching that seem to work and don't work.

Seventh: another approach teachers use to explore teaching is action research.

Define action research?

An approach that centers on problem posing. The cyclic process includes posing problems based on what goes on in the teacher's classroom.

Also, action research allows teachers to investigate and pose problems in their teaching to work at solving them, and generally to gain more awareness of teaching and classroom interaction.

For example:

When the teachers make meeting to talk about and collaborate on their action research projects. They report that they gain more awareness of their teaching after participating in such forums.

Eighth: Do self-observation.

How can teacher explore teaching through self-observation ?

We can explore through a process of describing ,analyzing ,and reflecting on our teaching. The first step in the cycle is to collect descriptive samples of our teaching that can be analyzed. This is followed by reflection and multiple interpretations. The next step is to consider how the same lesson could be taught differently and to draw up a teaching plan.

Then by implementing the new plan, the cycle returns to the collection of samples of teaching.

Cyclic process of self-observation consist of :

- 1-Collecting samples of teaching
2. Analyzing the samples of teaching
3. Interpreting and reflecting
4. Deciding on changes in teaching behavior

How can teachers explore their own teaching through the observation of other teachers?

We can see our own teaching in the teaching of others. When we observe others to gain knowledge of self , we have the chance to construct and reconstruct our own knowledge. It is possible to collect samples of teaching in a variety of ways. We can take fast notes, draw sketches, tally behavior, and note short transcript-like samples of interaction.

How can teachers explore through a teacher journal ?

We can explore teaching by writing a journal . The purpose of writing in a journal is to have a place to record our observation of what goes on in our own and other teachers' classrooms ,write about our discussion ,consider teaching ideas ,and reflect on our teaching Journal are also a place for us to raise doubts, express frustrations, and raise questions.

The following a list of what some teachers include in their journals.

- Tally sheets , transcripts, sketches, and coding as a -part of their analysis
- Photos and description of what goes on each photo
- Lists of alternative ways to teach aspect of lessons
- Summaries and reflections on discussions with other teachers

Written descriptions of classroom interaction collected in their own and other teachers' classroom.