ASL 762 – Seminar

Teaching Philosophy: Video and Transcript

Witulski

Video link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RqBGN6nJ7_s>

Transcript:

Hello I am Joanna (name sign). Why am I here talking about teaching American Sign Language (ASL)? In 2010, Modern Language Association published a report completed in 2009 about language classes other than English. In the report, since 2006 the percentage of foreign languages taught have risen or dropped. In that report, the number of ASL classes offered increased 16.5 percent nationwide, whether if offered at high schools, colleges or universities.

How and why am I passionate about teaching ASL? I have been raised in the language and culture since I was a young person. This takes place on a daily basis through socialization with family, friends, and work and also through learning, discussions and variety of resources that I bring into my life. With that, I bring my experience, knowledge and resources to people who are willing to learn about ASL and Deaf culture, enthused, curious and willing to be a part of the real world; whether it is a job opportunity working with Deaf people or a teacher, or just an opportunity to be a part of the community, culture and its language. Is the ability to teach ASL enough?

No, we also look at the 5 C’s that will provide an impact on learning and preparation for entry into the real world. What are the 5 C’s? Communication and Cultures; they both have important ties to each other as language is a part of culture and vice versa. Connections; this means that application of the knowledge of language, culture and learning creates a whole experience for the person. Comparisons; we can compare a language, culture and experience bringing in a rich environment for discussions and better understanding of differences and similarities between two groups of people. Communities; the last but not the least, this is important because community holds the language and culture within and experiencing, interacting, and learning about different communication styles. This provides different ways to be a part of a world that you are usually a part of, moving out of your world into another.

This is why I have the passion and desire to teach ASL.

There are two methods that I use to teach classes. One is the Direct Method and the other is the Natural Approach. These methods will help me be able to make connections such as using pictures and applying this with dialogues, taking a school tour to show what room type, where and what the campus has, and utilizing comparisons and discussions of language, cultures and experience.

The foundational approaches that I use to teach class is the Notional Functional Syllabus, Task-Based Language Learning, and Content Language Interactive Learning. These approaches along with the methods is important because it provides a foundation to build language learning, application and the use of natural approach, applying daily living experiences such as what time do they get up, what kind of events do their families do, what kind of sports do they play and a variety of resources. The experience they have and the use of their environment will enable them to learn and apply language skills. Interaction is not limited to student-teacher but a whole class interaction of student-student-teacher variations. With this kind of language reinforcement, language skills will continue to progress upward to success.

There is this quote that I have loved for a long time. “*What matters is the deafness of the ear, when the mind hears”* by Victor Hugo. What does this quote mean for me? Deafness is not the most important part, but the ability and opportunity to learn, which the mind “hears”; the mind is open. This applies perfectly to first language users, those whom grew up using ASL and lives in deaf culture. The obsession of deafness is to be put aside and provide the rich resources of ASL, including history, culture, language and foundation of their experiences, which is incorporated to bring understanding of their own.

Does this apply to those who are learning ASL as a second language? Yes, the barriers of attitude and knowledge will be broken down through teaching about ASL and their desire to learn. As time goes by, those barriers will be broken down and will create a lifetime journey. The world that the people learn will continue to grow with the experience they gain.

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