Plan Two: English Make-up Class

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Abstract

The English Make-up Class plans to enhance the English ability of low achievement students. There are two strategies for this plan. One is students' self-learning after school by using available equipment and the other one is E-learning programs in China University of Science and Technology, to enhance their English proficiency through traditional teaching methods.

Procedures

A. Selecting students who need the English Make-up Class. Two schemes for selecting students were adopted in this plan. First, freshmen whose College Entrance Examination (CEE) English points didn't achieve the standard will be selected to participate in the English Make-up Class. Second, all freshmen of the Four-Year College of Technology were given an English Proficiency test, including listening and reading, and those whose points were lower than the standard of the elementary level of the General English Proficiency Test (GEPT) would be selected to participate in the English Make-up Class. The prior students would still continue their programming English Make-up Class.

B. Students were classified into different grade and were asked to take the self-learning program after school. There are eight courses in the English Make-up Class and it lasts for two years. The eight English Make-up Classes are as follows: Elementary Listening (I), Elementary Grammar and Reading (I), Elementary Listening (II), Elementary Grammar and Reading (II), Intermediate Listening (I), Intermediate Grammar and Reading (I), Intermediate Listening (II), and Intermediate Grammar and Reading (II).

C. The Multimedia Room was opened for students who were asked to attend the self-learning program in addition to their usual English class. Teachers in the Language Center would provide help for students who have questions with English.

D. Each English Make-up Class is conducted for one semester. Students were asked to complete a certain number of classes depending on different situations then would be recorded.

E. The test was given to students again at the end of each semester and the score of the later would be compared with the former to explore any enhancement.

F. The traditional teaching method was also adopted. Four classes will be the new classes on the list, these being classes in English Pronunciation, Vocabulary Improvement, Speaking Improvement, and Basic Writing.

G.

The explanations of each English Make-up Classes are as follow:

Course Title	English Pronunciation Class
Participants	Two classes of freshmen of the Four-Year College of Technology who have the lowest English proficiency
Hours	2 hours/week, 10 weeks/semester, 2 semesters
Instructor	Mei Chen
Content	KK phonetic symbols, Phonics, Stress, Linking, and intonation
Method	Using teaching materials like pictures, flash cards, games, and puppets to increase students' interests and impression of English

Course Title	Vocabulary Improvement Class
Participants	One class of freshmen and sophomores from the Four-Year College of Technology who have the better English proficiency in the low proficiency level
Hours	2 hours/week, 10week/semester, 2 semesters
Instructor	Jessica Jan
Content	Introducing the prefixes, suffixes, roots, story of words, and morphological changes of vocabulary
Method	A. Teaching efficient learning strategies such as the associate method to help students' memorize English vocabulary and to increase the quantity of vocabulary. B. Introducing vocabulary learning website to students, so that they can learn vocabulary through games. C. Asking students to take a vocabulary test after school which is made by teachers in the China University of Science and

	Technology, so that they can memorize vocabulary through repeating tests.

Course Title	Speaking Improvement Class
Participants	One class of freshmen, sophomores and Juniors of Four-Year College of Technology
Hours	2 hours/week, 8 weeks/semester, 2 semesters
Instructor	Andrew Mackwood
Content	English reports design, words, pronunciation, intonation, body language, and presentation skills.
Method	A. Explaining the tips of all skills and giving examples. B. Students practice by groups. C. Students present on stage.

Course Title	Basic Writing Class
Participants	Sophomores of the Four-Year College of Technology
Hours	6 hours/week, 10week/semester, 2 semesters
Instructor	Elaine Hwang
Content	Kinds of Sentences, sentences patterns, combination of sentences, paragraph writing
Method	A. Using individual or small group teaching methods to understand students' difficulties in writing. B. Giving students help according their weaknesses.

Possible difficulties and solutions:

	Possible Difficulties	Solutions
Online English Make-up Class	The eight online English Make-up Classes designed and recorded by the English teachers in the Language Center were used for five years. However, the difficulties of the content in some units may not match students' level and needs. This may be a problem for students' self-learning.	The online English Make-up Class will be reviewed again to give proper adjustments and improve the learning efficiency according to students' responses on a Curriculum Satisfaction Questionnaire.
	Students have low motivation in English learning. The habit of self-learning is not built The expectation result usually cannot be achieved.	English Make-up Achievement tests must be held regularly and the scores will be calculated in former English classes. It is used to increase students' motivation in English learning

		and English proficiency.
	The Language Center holds two English Make-up Achievement tests each semester for hundreds of students. However, there aren't enough employees to help out.	Cooperating with the Distance Learning Section to record online English Make-up Achievement tests in order to execute the plan.
	Possible Difficulties	Solutions
Traditional teaching method	Students who are selected to participate in the special Make-up Class may lose their self-esteem or think they have no talent for English learning, forcing them to give up learning. This may affect their willingness to participate in the curriculum.	Experienced English teachers were selected to take charge of this curriculum. Teachers must respect students, have love and patience, and use active teaching methods to increase students' interest in English.
	Students who participate in the English Make-up Class come from various departments and it is not easy to have the same free time to teach face to face. Teachers don't have much time to give attention to individuals in big classes.	Dividing students into groups to increase small group teaching methods. The smaller number of the students each time may overcome the problems associated with a big class, and each student may get more attention from the teacher.

Software and hardware buying and source sharing:

A. Software and hardware for this plan: none

B. Source sharing methods:

    a. Multimedia Room is opened for students to participate in online English Make-up Classes.

    b. English learning websites are provided for students and also other material is recommended such as, websites related to English stories or games that match their levels and interest, in order to encourage them to learn by themselves. The following websites are useful:

        http://www.magickeys.com/books/

        http://storynory.com/

        http://www2.ksu.edu.tw/ksutAE/EngCorner/SiteMa

    c. The manager of the Department of Human Resources in Tung-I Information Service Co., Ltd. The subsidiary company of IBM was invited to co-operate with the design of the curriculum.