

Reading aloud in two languages for deep understanding

塩沢泰子 (文教大学)

The author has incorporated drama production for college English education. Her seminar students perform a 30-minute drama, either original or adapted from existing scripts, at Oral Communication Festival (OCF) organized and conducted annually by a group of English college teachers including the author. At OCF, started in 1996, students taught by the teachers from a various places in Japan gather and perform oral communication activities such as public speaking, readers' theatre and drama.

The author's students, who gained confidence from OCF the previous year, chose Hamlet and Othello for their graduation studies last year. They performed it in three different languages: English, Japanese and old Japanese. The students edited the scripts, decided castings, directed and performed them on their own. Among many merits of drama production, their performance in three different languages proved their deep understanding of the literature. It is hypothesized that performing in different languages made their appreciation of the scripts deeper.

In this workshop, the author will show some video clips of OCF and her students' graduation performance in three languages. The participants of the workshop will realize how performing for audience motivates students. Then participants will experience reading aloud a story both in English and in Japanese. Discussion will follow whether performing drama both in our native tongue and the target language could facilitate understanding.