

A Report on SLA 2018

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I attended the 8th International Conference on SLA Research in China which was held from Nov. 2 to Nov. 4 in Qingdao. As a speaker, I presented my study on the effect of metaphor instruction on English learning motivation. As a listener, I attended several speeches, from which I got some new ideas for my teaching and research. In this report, the limitation of my own study is discussed first, and then I will mainly focus on two speeches that benefitted me a lot.

In my research, questionnaires were adopted to investigate whether students' motivation can be enhanced by metaphor instruction, so the data was mainly based on students' self-reports. It would have been better to measure their motivation intensity with a pretest and a post-test, which would have made the data more convincing.

I attended a speech about L2 learners' conceptual metaphor transfer. Then I realized that, in my teaching, more attention should be paid to the similarities and differences between English and Chinese conceptual metaphors. In this way, students would be more likely to prevent negative transfer and benefit from positive transfer. As for my research, I will probably conduct a study on bilingual students' comprehension and production of metaphor.

In addition, Prof. Wen delivered a speech on production-oriented teaching. She emphasized the importance of setting a scenario for students, giving them opportunities to use the language in a real-life situation. Otherwise, students will think that classroom activities are only language practice, which will decrease their motivation. Therefore, I will try to integrate the content of the textbook with some real-life situations.

In general, I learned some effective teaching and research methods from the conference. Hope they can be well incorporated into my own practice.

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