

A Short Report about My Experience in the ACLL 2018

Silvia Zheng

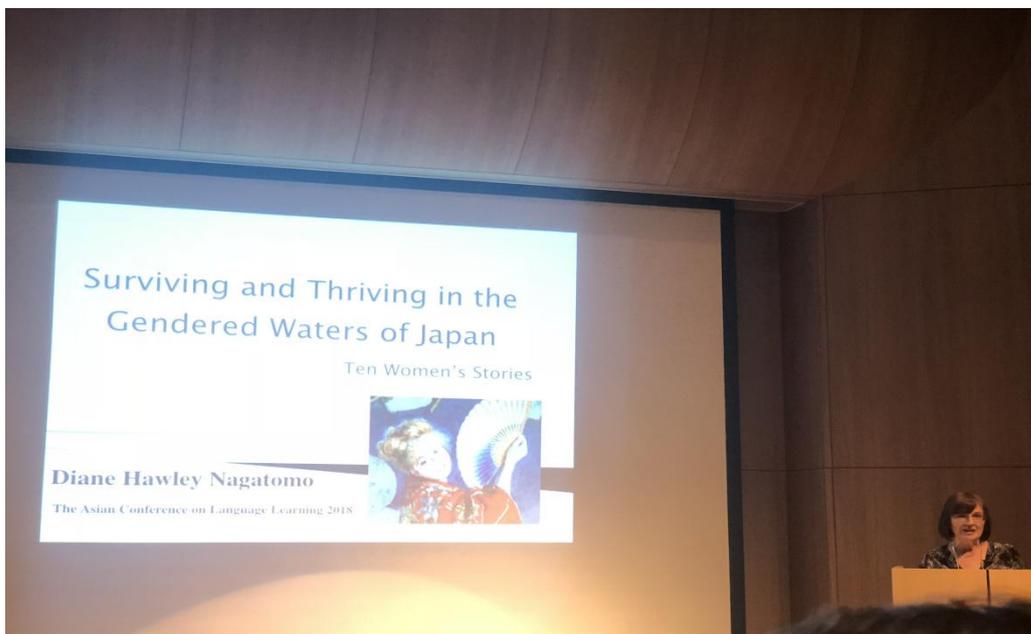
From April 26 to April 30, I attended the Asian Conference on Language Learning (ACLL) in Kobe, Japan. The theme of the Conference this year was "Surviving and Thriving: Education in Times of Change". It covered many different topics under the theme, such as Culture and Language, Psychology of the Learner, Intersectionality, Plurilingualism – Bilingualism, Educational Technologies, Learning Environments, Professional Development, Assessment, Approaches, Applied Linguistics Research, Disabilities and the Language Learner, Educational Policy, Lifelong Learning, and Translation and Interpretation. I met many scholars and teachers from all over the world and had some nice talks with some of them. I got inspiration from the conference and believe that it was a fruitful experience.

As a presenter, I presented my paper on the topic "Assessing Intercultural Competence in the Language Classroom: Observation of Practice in Shantou University and Reflections on Assessment Models". I mainly went through the literature review and argued that there is not a single definition about Intercultural Competence and because of this, the assessment methods vary. I briefly introduced some existing assessment tools in assessing ICC. I illustrated the practice in ELC-3 (of STU) based on interviews I had done with several ELC-3 teachers. After that, I answered some questions from the audience and they seemed to be satisfied with my response.

As a participant, I participated in all the keynote speeches of the conference. I was inspired by many scholars. Although they addressed different specific topics under the broad theme, they brought me some deep thoughts after their speeches. What impressed me most was a speech by Diane Hawley Nagatomo, from Ochanomizu University, Japan. She discussed the identity of international teachers who teach English in the Japanese context. She mainly focused on the female teachers—specifically, on their change of identity during their teaching experience. She gave us a clear picture of English learning and teaching in Japan and illustrated the identity issue through her interview with ten women. It called up my memories concerning identity in language and was therefore fascinating.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to attend the international conference and share my ideas with teachers from different universities around the world. I will review what I have learnt and seek self-improvement in the future.

Some pictures taken in the Conference





Assessing Intercultural Competence in the Language Classroom: Observation of the Practice in Shantou University and Reflections on the Assessment Models

Cui ZHENG (Silvia),
English Language Center,
Shantou University,
GD, China