

Singapore: 23rd ICTEL Conference

November 12-13, 2019

Yuehong Gao

The conference I attended, the 23rd ICTEL, was for teachers in different educational contexts to discuss classroom-based studies exploring approaches, methodologies and technologies in language teaching. Presenters and participants were from various cultural backgrounds such as Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore, Australia, UK and China. There was also a wide variety of topics presented at the conference including educational psychology, academic writing feedback, language fossilization, learner motivation and teacher-student relationship. This variety gave me a nice opportunity to reflect on English language teaching from different perspectives.

My presentation was titled “Information and Communication Technology in Collaborative and Task-Based Language Learning: The Case of Padlet in the Undergraduate Classroom.” It was one of the few topics about educational technology and its application in class. The presentation aimed to investigate the creative use of Padlet in our ELC class and gather feedback from participants. I asked a quick survey question before I introduced Padlet. It turned out that very few participants knew about this digital tool or had tried it in language teaching. Many of them were taking photos of the Padlet overview and the example task. Because the conference did not allocate time for Q&A, some participants had to approach me during the coffee break for more details.

Through an analysis of the performance of my three ELC classes, the preliminary findings showed a higher level of learner engagement and collaboration with the use of Padlet. The long-term benefits were argued to enhance students’ digital literacy, develop transferable language skills, and foster learner autonomy. Undergraduate students in my classes still have diverse knowledge about Padlet after the pre-task introduction and four tasks. Most students like exploring features available in Padlet and have not encountered significant difficulties in using Padlet. Overall, the majority enjoy the use of Padlet in our ELC classes. Sharing my study and findings with scholars from around the world has given me great inspiration to work further on digital learning tools in English classes.

