Connecting Teaching with Research: Designing a Classroom Study

Workshop Report

Connecting Teaching with Research: Designing a Classroom Study
Presented by Maria Shardakova, CLE Director of Language Assessment

Friday, February 27, 2015
2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Ballantine Hall 235
IU Campus, Bloomington

On Friday, February 27, 2015, the Center for Language Excellence (CLE) presented the workshop entitled “Connecting Teaching with Research: Designing a Classroom Study”. The workshop had 17 attendees including three CLE staff and language instructors from eleven different departments, servicing ten different languages (Yoruba, Kiswahili, Mongolian, Ukrainian, French, Chinese, Kurdish, Akan and Russian). Another attendee was from CELCAR. The presentation was led by Maria Shardakova, Director of Language Assessment for the Center for Language Excellence.

This workshop was the ninth of a series of workshops offered by CLE.

The workshop began with a brief introduction to the definition of a classroom-based research. Classroom-based research is a technical term that covers a whole range of research studies on classroom language learning and teaching. The participants were then briefed with a step-by-step approach on how to start the research. Then, a guide on the process of selecting a theoretical framework was presented to the participants. The different approaches to select a theoretical framework includes social, cognitive, linguistic and psychological approaches. The participants were then presented with the various models done by researchers in the past. Finally, participants engaged in a discussion to discuss the different sample studies and how these studies could help them in framing their researches.

The post-workshop survey evaluation showed that overall the participants said the workshop was very helpful.

Below are what some of the participants had to say about the workshop:

“I wish Maria had given this talk in my SLA class many years ago when I was a student! In that class, we were asked to design and carry out studies with little explicit explanation on things like theoretical framework!”
“A great overview and discussion of challenges.”
“This was really excellent way to introduce classroom research to all beginning language graduate teaching associates. Excellent presentation!”
“It was a great workshop.”