

Effectiveness of the International Baccalaureate Theory of Knowledge (TOK) Approach in Fostering Speaking Skills among Japanese Additional Language Learners

Yuya Akatsuka

Waseda University Honjo Senior High School

Waseda University Institute for Digital Enhancement of Cognitive Development

International Baccalaureate (IB)

Diploma Programme (DP)

Theory of Knowledge (TOK)

To what extent are the approaches to the teaching and learning of TOK effective for improving learners' English proficiency?

Model

open-inquiry based learning

is a student-centred approach

begins with students' question(s)

encourages students to decide topic(s) on their own

(Spronken-Smith and Walker, 2010)

Practice

n=10 (senior high school students)

1 class hour × 11 weeks (1 class hour = 90 mins)

Procedure

Step 1. Understand BICS and CALP

Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills(BICS)

Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency(CALP)

Step 2. Understand differences between informative and persuasive presentations

Step 3. Create “knowledge questions” (essential question), analyse a variety of issues at local and/or global level.

Step 4. Explore and investigate a topic

Measurement

Academic Word List, (AWL) (Coxhead, 2000)

Used a rubric designed by the IB

Step 1: BICS and CALP

e.g. Avoid vague words that we use in spoken language, e.g. big, biggest, good, thing, nice, like, etc.

✗ At the Hachiko exit of Shibuya station, there is a cute statue of a dog, that represents a really nice story.



✓ At the Hachiko exit of Shibuya station, there is a bronze statue of a dog, that represents a moving story.

STEP 1: BICS and CALP

e.g. In general, use a one-word verb instead of a phrasal verb (as in spoken language).

✗ To improve better cardiac health, we should cut back on our consumption of high cholesterol foods.



✓ To improve better cardiac health, we should reduce our consumption of high cholesterol foods

(Hedges, L., King, L., Maclure, G., & Swash, L., 2012)

STEP2: A persuasive presentation style

1. Bicycle Helmets Should Be Compulsory In Japan	2. The Life of Helen Keller
3. To Try and To Fail is Better Than Never Trying At All	4. How the Moon's Gravity Affects the Tides
5. An Examination of "I am a Cat" by Natsume Soseki	6. You Can Make a Difference

Presentation Procedure

1. Focus on real-life situation:(RLS)



2. Create a “knowledge question”



3. Analyse RLS from a global perspective, and explain how the “knowledge question” can apply to other real-life situations.



4. Answer the “knowledge question”



5. Suggest possible solution(s)

STEP 3: Create a “Knowledge question”

Most shady place?

You Tube. Most Shady Place in Japan: Kabukicho, Tokyo's Red Light District
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7WaiCrN92yg>

Academic Word List

Broccoli has tons of nutrition and affect to your body and health.

I want to convince you why Kamakura is famous destination in Japan.

Most of food waste happened during marketing and consuming process.

Another expert says that there is 22% of children cannot speak their mother tongue of their languages.

If you have enough sleep, you also have positive effect

Appropriate use of language....

In conclusion, what we do for food waste is now is to realise reduce the number of food waste is each person.

The reliability of common sense is depended on each believer's perspective.

Since arts for example, painting, sculpture, handicrafts, architecture music, dance and poem are the properties which are created by human's activities for appreciating the values, however, when human cannot find those values, arts will not affect human's behavior or mind.

To what extent do circumstances or environments affect to the emotion?

How does cultural context affect the communication?

Some teens are not enough matured to accept things that is different.

There are differences of definition of beauty on each country.

This conference is quite crucial because of the new outcomes of international agreement on climate change.

Government can manipulate people by using and restricting media.

These words have somewhat ambiguous, unclear, or flexible broad meanings.

She thinks it is inappropriate to do that in public.

Academic Word List

Participants	1 st	2 nd	Difference
A	7	16	+ 9
B	1	7	+ 6
C	4	4	\pm 0
D	7	6	- 1
E	14	15	+ 1
F	8	5	- 3
G	3	11	+ 8
H	2	7	+ 5
I	2	4	+ 2
J	5	10	+ 5
Average	5.3	8.5	+ 3.2

	Content	Structure	Academic Language	Presentation Skills
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Valid reasons are given with supporting evidence. ● The topic and content maintain the audience interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There is a logical order to the presentation. ● The Thesis statement is clearly made 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Effective use of rhetorical devices. ● Appropriate use of formal language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Effective body language ● Effective use of voice
5	<p>Two or more valid reasons are given with good supporting evidence. The topic and content maintain the audience interest throughout the presentation</p>	<p>The introduction is very inviting and a clear thesis statement is made. Information is extremely well structured with an introduction, main body and conclusion</p>	<p>A variety of very engaging rhetorical devices are used. Appropriate formal language is used throughout the presentation.</p>	<p>Very effective use of body language, eye contact, movement and the pace of the presentation. Very effective use of variation and volume of voice</p>

Rubric

Criterion	1st	2 nd	Difference
Content	3.0	4.2	+ 1.2
Structure	3.1	3.9	+ 0.8
Academic language	2.9	4.1	+ 1.2
Presentation skills	3.2	3.8	+ 0.6

References and acknowledgement

- Coxhead, A. (2000). A New Academic Word List. *TESOL Quarterly*, 34(2): 213-238.
- Oxford University Press. (2014). *Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English*. UK.:
Author
- Spronken-Smith, R., & Walker, R. (2010). Can inquiry-based learning strengthen the links between teaching and disciplinary research? *Studies in Higher Education*, 35(6), 723-740.

Acknowledgement

This work is a part of the outcome research performed under the EIKEN 28th Grant.