

March 5th, 2025 JELES-55 online and at NTHU

Autonomous Mutual Learning of English

--- A New Hope ---

or

I can teach me better than you can!

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Digital Enhancement of Cognitive Development

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objectives and goals of the Institute for Digital Enhancement of Cognitive Development

- providing learning environment that would prompt autonomous mutual learning among students**
- cultivation of international academic literacy and critical thinking skills**
- research on how meanings emerge out of interactions between cognitive agents and semantic environments**
- establishment of learner autonomy and collaboration**
- enhancement of sense of belongings, sense of security and satisfaction on the part of learners**
- focusing on the importance of learners whispers, murmurs and noises**

I've seen things you people wouldn't believe...

- a student dependent on machine translation site writing an essay with her own words in English**
- a student with super-presence sending email from Okinawa, Paris an Rome**
- a student spending two hours on OQPT with 40/60 finishing the same in 40 minutes with 55/60**
- a drunk sleeper student graduating in four years**
- a special request from a special student sniper training: no other students behind my back**

all those moments will be lost in time...

- **audio and video recordings of English classes**
 - Tera Bytes of raw data every semester
 - I had to throw away all my equipment in my office.
 - I had to move SSDs between my office and my apt.
- **I am losing track of what happened when.**
 - My memories are being lost.
- **I got rid of all the documents, paperwork and forms in the past 40 years or more.**
 - my first passport and visas
 - OHP presentation sheets
 - blueprint photocopies

Time to retire.

- **Like tears in rain.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoAzpa1x7jU>

- **Time to retire: 2025/03/31**
 - **2025/03/03: faculty of law farewell greetings**
 - **2025/03/17: faculty retiring from all faculty**
 - **2025/03/24: return my office key.**
 - **2025/03/29: I am giving my penultimate lecture online.**

new findings in April of 2024-2025

- **renovated computer cluster rooms**
 - **new PCs and new smaller LCD monitors**
- **Almost all students brought their own PCs.**
 - **Only one or two in a class of 30 did so until 2019-2020.**
- **No oral interaction practices but students started their presentations among groups of three or four.**
 - **It took more than half hour for preparing slinds.**
 - **It took less than three minutes to finish the talks.**
- **Some students were able to write essays with 300 or 400 words in class.**
 - **They were asked to submit a revised one anyway.**

a new hope

- **Students in 2024-2025 are ready to engage in English-language interactions, which is quite different from my experiences until 2019-2029.**
- **Ministry of Education curriculum reform to emphasize spoken English and overall proficiency did not show a noticeable change.**
- **Introduction of listening section in the University Entrance Center Exams in 2006 did not have great impact on students' overall listening and speaking proficiency.**
- **MEXT started English as subject in elementary schools in 2016 and tried to incorporate speaking and writing sections in University Entrance Center Exams but failed.**
- **Still, those efforts may have affected the way students approach English language learning.**

fall of 2024-2025

- **October of 2024, I was surprised that we now have only one computer cluster classroom and the number of machines changed from 36 to 48. Formerly we had three classrooms with 36, 36 and 72 machines.**
- **This is due to organizational change within the Faculty of Law, which consists of the undergraduate School of Law, Graduate School of Law (academic), Graduate Law School (professional), and Institute for Comparative Law.**