

13. Reflections by Learners about Discussion

As well as the experience of teachers, it is useful to discuss the results of the PDR Method as experienced by learners.

Learners feel the difference between studying English in high school and university. Learners are able to build on their previous 6-7 years of English study and utilize all four skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

13. 学習者の声

PDRメソッドの効果については、教員の視点だけでなく、学生の視点から語ってもらうのが本当でしょう。以下にいくつかの事例を紹介します。

学習者は高校と大学における英語学習の違いを感じます。学習者はそれまでの6、7年間にわたる英語学習を足がかりにして、リーディング、ライティング、リスニング、スピーキングという4つのスキルをすべて活用することができます。

2nd-Year Law Learner

This class is the most interesting class I have ever had. I think to improve English skills I have to do input and output. Almost classes need only input, but this is not. I can improve and realize my English skill.

2nd-Year Law Learner (lived in America for 3-4 years when in elementary school)

This English class was very exciting for me, and it was the first English class that I have felt like that. We do not have so many chances to speak English, so this class was a time that I could show my ability, and get stimulated by other learners.

I had a really good time making a discussion with my friends, and the most enjoyable discussion was about "Happiness and Success." It was so funny to speak with both the super positive person and the super negative person in this class. I enjoyed hearing their episodes, which were very humorous. I also learned in this class that my classmates are studying very positively about law. I thought that I should try to enjoy what I can learn whether I do not have interest or not.

Until learning in this class I never knew that there are so many learners how can speak English, and they are so eager to speak English. I got a lot of power from them, and I would like to talk with them sometimes if I have a chance. I could also make some friends in this class,

which was the most happy thing.

2nd-Year Law Learner

At first, I was negative about the discussion. Because I am not good at speaking English. However, through this class, my opinion changed. Now, I am positive about the English discussion and it is fun for me to discuss with other people.

I think my English skills were improved by this class. For example, speaking, listening, and writing. Moreover, discussion skills also improved. So, in this class, I could get useful things for the future.

2nd-Year Medical Dept. Learner

This class was a little difficult for me because I forgot almost all English. So, it was hard to write discussion sheets and reaction papers every week. It took many hours to finish. First, I didn't like this class. I couldn't speak or write English well. I was ashamed of not being able to do that well. But, in June, I notice that I could remember many English words which I learned when I was a high school learner, so I enjoyed writing in English a little and I thought I wanted to study English.

2nd-Year Medical Dept. Learner

In this English class, I improved my English skills, especially speaking and writing. I do not usually speak English in my daily life and I needed to write a lot of sentences once a week, so it was hard for me to write. But, I got used to it.

2nd-Year Engineering Dept. Learner

Through this class, learners can realize the difficulty of talking English and difference between speaking and talking, and goodness of talking English. In fact, there is a big hurdle for beginning to talk with English, however, learners can start English dialogue from this class. I would like this program to be in high school's education program. I like this class very much. We can also make friends through discussions. They will be a treasure. I am satisfied to touch many kinds of discussions. Story that I don't know in detail is difficult for me, but nice experience. Thank you very much.

1st-Year Engineering Dept. Learner

In this class, I have to read, write, speak, and listen to English. At first, it is difficult for me to write my idea speedily, but I gradually got to be able to do it in a short time. The most difficult thing I had to do was write a reaction paper. I had to write my idea in 15 minutes, it is a short time. However, I gradually got to be able to write many sentences and I was surprised at it.

1st-Year Engineering Dept. Learner

I think this discussion class is good. That's because we can learn four skills of English which are reading, writing, speaking, and listening. In high school, learning English is for only getting

good scores on English tests. This will not enable us to use English. But, this class is different from English class of high school.

1st-Year Engineering Dept. Learner

It was the most interesting class in this semester because we had to speak English all the time! I love English very much so I enjoyed the discussion. However, I was worried to tell my opinions to the learners in English for the first time of this class. I can listen and pronounce English well but I cannot speak what I think in English so I made many efforts to tell it clearly, for example, giving some gestures, look at the learners' eyes, speak slowly and clearly. Finally, I could tell my opinion without looking at my preparation sheet! I could get some skills of talking with many people in this class.

1st-Year Literature Dept. Learner

I have done discussion for four months. I can't believe this class has finished. When I began to do discussion, I felt nervous because I couldn't speak English very well and I didn't like English. However, I began to like discussion and English through this class. It is hard for me to tell others things in English, but it became fun for me to do.

The time when I felt fun is third discussion. By original question, I could know more about other classmates and made friends.

Through this class I could realize that I improved my English skill because I could tell them in English gradually.

Learners become autonomous learners. They are able to talk about their personal experiences, share their opinions and develop their general knowledge and critical thinking ability. Please focus not on the fact that learners are using English, but on the way they are using English to think about issues and express their opinions.

PDRメソッドの授業を受けることによって学習者は自律的な学習者になります。自分の個人的な体験について語ったり、自分の意見を伝えたりすることができるようになり、一般常識と批判的な思考能力を身に付けられます。英語を使っていることだけに注目するのではなく、彼らが英語を使って思考し、表現している内容に注目してください。

2nd-Year Law Learner

My favorite topic is topic 3 "Death." I often think why I was born, why I live, or how to die. But, I wasn't able to say in public but only keep in memory. It was a good chance to be known how I am by my classmates. And I dislike any topic. It was great time to discuss with my classmates.

2nd-Year Law Learner

I experienced hot discussion in this class. It was so good and exciting experience for me. We don't discuss these timely and difficult problems or topics usually. So, this class gave me a fresh experience.

2nd-Year Law Learner

We discuss many topics in this semester. The most interesting topic was body language. Other topics were also interesting, but I choose this topic – body language. Through that topic, I got new knowledge and understand what I couldn't understand. And, I knew that we have many body language.

2nd-Year Law Learner

Through this class I improved my English skills. I can talk a long time in English. Each topic was difficult and I tried to think in English and write English. Talking with friend, I discovered other views. Discussion is the most efficient way to make my thoughts deep.

2nd-Year Medical Dept. Learner

I was interested in “Happiness and Success” in discussion, because it told me many positive things. The topic of “Death” was very difficult, because I don't know anything about death.

2nd-Year Medical Dept. Learner

I think this class requires much time for preparation. It is positive aspect and negative aspect, because if there were no homework, our time for studying English is only class and our English skill will not improve at all. But, for some difficult topics, I took 2 hours or more for my preparation. It was a little hard for me. I like to watch TED and read the articles because I could know so many new things! It is wonderful! So, I think this style is good and you must keep it. I enjoyed discussing almost all the topics.

2nd-Year Medical Dept. Learner

I enjoyed this English class very much. Watching many videos in English is difficult but I can understand English more than before. And I talked about many problems with many learners in English. So now, I don't feel fear of listening and talking in English with people. And this class gave me various skills! Every week I thought of many problems, so I have much information and many more ideas than 4 months ago. And I have communication skill more than before. Especially I enjoyed talking about “Happiness and Success.”

1st-Year Engineering Dept. Learner

Thanks to this class, I improve my ability to speak, listen, write, and think in English very much. I want to go abroad to study chemistry so this discussion class is good for me in that I can discuss in English with other people. Furthermore, I like talking in English and reading essays in English more than before. Now, I often buy Reader's Digest and read it. It is very interesting

for me.

The most interesting topic for me is “Engineering Challenges” because I belong to the department of Engineering. There will be many troubles in Japan. So, we should try to make a difference. I want to study protein and help a large number of people who suffer from various diseases.

1st-Year Literature Dept. Learner

First of all, I really enjoyed this class. I’ve never experienced this kind of class before and first, I suffered from a lot of preparations for this class, but those efforts made my English writing and speaking skills improved. This discussion-style class was much more sophisticated and creative than the other classes which my friends were in.

At first, almost all of the learners, including me, were not so good at telling their opinions to others in English, but they gradually improved and now we can discuss many things actually in English. This change was very impressive for me.

The discussion I enjoyed the most is the discussion about “beauty.” It was a very appropriate topic for us to talk about. I heard so many interesting questions and answers.

I’ve been very lucky to be in this class. I’m sure that this discussion class improves our English skills more than the other classes. I really want to continue this kind of training to improve my English more.

Learners make friends and, as we discussed earlier, an atmosphere conducive to collaborative learning becomes possible through PDR. (学習者同士が友だちになります。そして、私たちが当初述べたようにPDRメソッドは学習者同士を結び付ける建設的な関係を作ります。)

2nd-Year Medical Dept. Learner

Especially, it was precious to meet various learners. I could speak to many learners. I found a learner who was born in the same area as me. I found a learner who worked in a similar place. It was very fun.

2nd-Year Medical Dept. Learner

In this class I also made a lot of friends. First, I cannot speak English naturally, but now, I enjoy speaking English. It was my best English class. Thank you very much.

1st-Year Engineering Dept. Learner

I enjoyed this class. What is the most interesting for me was talking with my friends who I don’t usually talk with. Through this class I made many new friends and it was the best thing for me.

1st-Year Literature Dept. Learner

Through doing discussion in English this semester, I think I could make more friends because it was difficult for us to speak English well, but we managed to do so. This experience made me mentally stronger than I had been.

I'm so shy that I can't talk to someone. However, this class taught me that I can talk with someone if I try to.

Currently the PDR Method has only been used by six teachers at two universities, but we believe that this method offers an exciting possibility for expanding English education at the tertiary level in Japan.

If you have any questions or comments about the contents of this Handbook please let us know.

PDRメソッドは、まだ2つの大学、6人の教員のみによって実践されている方法であり、したがって、日本の大学で教えるより多くの英語教育教員が、これを活用することで、新たなオプションが付け加えられ、大学・高等教育機関、高等学校の多様性を超えて、また広がり進化していくものと私たちは信じています。

ぜひ、本書を活用しご意見をおよせください。