# AIST **Research-based Teaching Philosophy** JAPAN ADVANCED INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



My teaching philosophy is based upon the combination of my values and my beliefs of learners, language and learning and provides an excellent point to reflect on and organize teaching practice. (Coppolla, 2002)

## **Beliefs about Learners**

Action	Specific actions	Reason and reference
Set	• Expect the best effort	Expectancy effects (Cooper 1979)
		Self-fulfilling prophesy (Boehlert 2005)
expectations	<ul> <li>Clarify aims, objectives, assignments, materials &amp; methods</li> </ul>	Expectancy-value theory in education (Elkof, 2006)
Identify and	<ul> <li>Identify communication needs</li> </ul>	Target vs. Present Situation Analysis (Munby, 1978)
analyze needs	<ul> <li>Identify needs, wants &amp; lacks</li> </ul>	Needs perception (Allwright, 1982)
	<ul> <li>Define processes &amp; goals</li> </ul>	Goal- vs. process-orientated needs (Widdowson, 1987)
	<ul> <li>Include learners in needs analysis</li> </ul>	Objective vs. subjective needs (Nunan, 1988)
Individualise	• Prioritize learners' needs	Learner-centred curriculum (Nunan, 1988)
_	Address beliefs	Language learning beliefs inventory (Horwitz, 1988)
learning	<ul> <li>Vary teaching according to learners</li> </ul>	Learner differences (Skehan, 1991)
Create	Be a positive role model	Acculturation model (Schumann, 1978)
		Acculturation model (Zolt´n, 1998)
positive learning	<ul> <li>Create positive environment</li> </ul>	Create positive environment (Duffy & Jones, 1995)
environ	Reduce 'distance'	Increase teacher immediacy (Gorham, 1988)
	Set realistic challenges	Csikzentmihaly's concept of flow (1996)
	<ul> <li>Being friendly &amp; approachable</li> </ul>	Integrative orientation (Noels, 2001)
Inject humour	Be lighthearted	Humour (Hill, 1988)
	Create relaxed atmosphere	Humour in class (Warnock, 1989)
	• Use funny or silly examples	Being silly (Schwarz 1989)
	<ul> <li>Laugh &amp; be happy</li> </ul>	Importance of laughter (Walter, 1990)
	Motivate	Language anxiety (Young, 1991)
	Reduce anxiety	Risk-friendly environment (Ames, 1992)
	<ul> <li>Provide opportunities to save face</li> </ul>	Face saving (Ohata, 1995)
	<ul> <li>Enjoy &amp; use fun activities</li> </ul>	Language games (Wright, Betteridge, & Buckby, 2005

### **Beliefs about Language**

Action	Specific actions	
		Reason and reference
Use authentic contextualized	<ul> <li>Contextualise language</li> </ul>	Cognition and context quadrats (Cummins, 1984)
-		Language in context (Omaggio,2001)
language	Prioritise authentic language	Increased motivation (Peacock, 1997)
		Cooperative learning in Japan (Hart, 2001)
Select frequently- used language	<ul> <li>Pitch language appropriately</li> </ul>	Comprehensible input, (Krashen, 1985) cf. White (1987)
useu language	<ul> <li>Select language with coverage</li> </ul>	3000 words for 95% coverage (Liu Na & Nation, 1985)
	<ul> <li>Emphasise academic language</li> </ul>	Academic word list (Coxhead, 2000)
	Refer to word lists	Vocabulary acquisition (Nation, 2002)
Raise language	• Highlight grammar in context	Consciousness-Raising activity (Thornbury, 1999)
consciousness	<ul> <li>Use tasks</li> </ul>	Interface hypothesis in task-based learning (Ellis, 2003)
Focus on	• Set communicative tasks	Performance vs competence (Chomsky, 1965)
		Skill-getting and skill-using (Rivers, 1972)
communication		Communicative competence (Hymes, 1973)
		Usage and use (Widdowson, 1978)
		Communicative competence (Swain, 1985)
		Communicative syllabus (Yalden, 1987)
Focus on	Focus on meaning	Speech Acts (Searle, 1975)
		Meaningful communication (Swain, 1993)
language	<ul> <li>Focus on both meaning and form</li> </ul>	Necessity of form in CLT (Norris and Ortega, 2000)
	<ul> <li>Focus on pronunciation</li> </ul>	Suprasegmental importance (Munro & Derwing, 1999)
	Focus on appropriacy	Contextual appropriacy (Brown and Yule, 1983)
	Maximise use of L2	Goal setting (Hollanders and Modell, 2011)
	Proactive error avoidance	Interlanguage theory (Selinker, 1972)
	Anticipate common errors	151 common errors (Webb, 2006)
Show cultural		Post-method condition (Kumaravadivelu, 1994)
differences &		Teaching by principles (Brown, 2001)
similarities		Local perspectives (Murphy, 2001)
		Japanese language policy (Butler & Iino, 2005) Reframing EL Education (Mantero & Iwai, 2005)

### **Beliefs about Learning**

	Action	Specific actions	Reason and reference
	Maximise	Create group rapport	Vocab acquisition (Ellis, Tanaka & Yamazaki, 1994)
	interaction	Get students talking	Group dynamics (Dörnyei & Malderez, 1997)
		• Listen	Interactive approach (Brown, 2001)
		<ul> <li>Integrate grammar into skills work</li> </ul>	Grammar and CLT (Burns, 2009)
	Encourage critical thinking	<ul> <li>Display and expect critical thinking</li> </ul>	Questioning techniques (King, 1995)
	Develop autonomy	<ul> <li>Assign responsibility to students</li> </ul>	Learner directedness (Dickinson & Carver, 1980)
		<ul> <li>Show how to learn not what to learn</li> </ul>	Sustainability doctrine (Swidler & Watkins, 2008)
		<ul> <li>Encourage students to read more</li> </ul>	Incidental vocab acquisition (Laufer & Hulstijn, 2001)
		<ul> <li>Promote self and peer feedback</li> </ul>	Feedback (Genessee and Upshur, 1996)
		<ul> <li>Set one-a-day exercises</li> </ul>	Habit formations (Larson & Smalley, 1972)
	Accoss and	<ul> <li>Test, teach, test</li> </ul>	Authentic, Clarification, Focus (Scrivener, 1994)

Values

"zero distortion between words and actions" Integrity **Inspiration** "spurring students into action" **Innovation** "always experimenting" **Integration** "mixing management, education & linguistics

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Assess and	• Test, teach, test	Authentic, Clarification, Focus (Scrivener, 1994)
act on results	<ul> <li>Provide formative assessments</li> </ul>	Formative assessments in ELT (Bachman & Palmer, 1996)
i courto	Praise and appreciate	Effective and ineffective praise (Hitz & Driscoll, 1989)
	<ul> <li>Advise clearly &amp; constructively</li> </ul>	Sugaring the pill (Hyland & Hyland, 2001)
	Check uptake	Uptake and learning (Allwright, 1984)
Raise self- esteem &	<ul> <li>Display error / feedback cycle</li> </ul>	Encourage error-making behavior (Edge, 1989)
confidence	<ul> <li>Drill words &amp; phrases as necessary</li> </ul>	Communicative drills (Rivers, 1987)
	• Expect the best results	Pygmalion effect (Rosenthal & Jacobsen, 1968)
		Self-fulfilling prophesy in HE (Rhem, 1999)
Integrate	Harness the novelty effect	Novelty or halo effect (Clark & Sugrue, 1991)
technology		Efficacy of media (Koumi, 1994)
	Set stretch tasks	Extended limits (Hill & Ford, 2000)
	Use online applications	Concordancing & vocab (Cobbs, 1997)
	<ul> <li>Show support available online</li> </ul>	Unique support capabilities (Hastings & Tracey, 2005)
Scaffold	<ul> <li>Define zone of proximal development</li> </ul>	ZPD (Vygotsky,1934 in Yasnitsky 2011)
learning	<ul> <li>Balance support against challenge</li> </ul>	Development zone (Gibbons, 2009)
	Provide learning support	Collective Scaffolding (Donato, 1994)
Experiment	<ul> <li>Harness the Hawthorne effect</li> </ul>	Hawthorne effect (Olson, Verley, Santos & Salas, 1994)
	<ul> <li>Demonstrate risk-taking behavior</li> </ul>	Walk the talk (Crichton & LaBonte, 2003)
	<ul> <li>Show desire to change &amp; improve</li> </ul>	Experiential learning (Rogers & Freiberg, 1994)
Develop writers	<ul> <li>Creating informal support networks</li> </ul>	Writing without teachers (Elbow, 1973)
writers	Focus on process	Writing process (Zamel, 1982)
	• Define the product	Product-driven writing (Casanave, 1998)

