

CIT Visiting Scholars Attended TU Symposium on International Research in Progress

On the afternoon of April 19th, 2018, the Troy University (TU) Symposium on International Research in Progress was convened at the Long Hall on Troy Campus. Five visiting scholars from the Confucius Institute at Troy University (CIT) attended the symposium and delivered speeches. Combining their professional backgrounds with the practical work, they presented their own research achievement.

CIT visiting scholar, Ms. Qun Fan demonstrated her findings from the class observations in American middle schools and analyzed the factors to improve the efficiency of language learning. By comparing the characters between Chinese and American language teaching, she explored feasible language teaching methods. Ms. Fan held that the students' understanding of the existing knowledge, the teachers' behaviors, video playback and cultural practices are the factors that affect the efficiency of language learning.

CIT visiting scholar, Ms. Lin Cao introduced about designing a questionnaire under the supervision of Dr. Rui Feng after she came to Troy University in 2016. She investigated the college students in both America and China from the following aspects: their attitudes towards foreign language learning, sizes of class and physical classroom environment, etc. Then she collected the data and set out to look up literature reviews in many ways. In her research, she gave some constructive suggestions on creating supportive classroom environment in college English education. Moreover, she set a new direction for the future research.

CIT visiting scholar, Ms. Wenjuan Cheng suggested that experiential learning should strengthen the effect of language and cultural learning. She got the conclusion from the class observations among American K-6, 7-8 and tertiary students. She analyzed the current situation of Chinese learning and challenges in America. She insisted that one of the important strategies in language learning is experiential learning. Then she gave examples to prove that knowing about traditional culture and doing classroom games are important means of experiential teaching.

CIT visiting scholar, Ms. Yandong Wang, introduced the cultural influences on language learning. She presented her research from 4 aspects: her first-hand information about American culture, the influence of Chinese cultural activities on native Chinese learners in America, the difficulties of learning Chinese and English, and the strategies of classroom teaching. Ms. Wang mentioned that the research on American culture was helpful to her CBI class for the English majors in China. She concluded that the participation and feedback of American native learners on various Chinese cultural activities could help educators to make Chinese teaching more effective.

CIT visiting scholar, Ms. Li Zhang introduced about the phenomenon of language transfer, especially the effect of negative transfer on Second Language Acquisition (SLA). She analyzed the causes of language transfer with a large number of cases she got from the class observations in American elementary schools. Based on these observations, she collected data, did data analysis and found out the solution to the negative transfer with the help of comparative analysis.

Dr. Rui Feng and Dr. Iris Hong Xu act as supervisors for these CIT visiting scholars. They offered great help and lots of constructive advice for their researches. Vice Chancellor of Troy University, Dr. Ingram praised highly the solid academic foundations, the meticulous academic attitudes and the rich academic achievements that CIT visiting scholars had demonstrated.

