

Greetings in 2023

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The 2023 academic year starts now. To be honest, I am relieved that CLIL-ite has spent the starting year going well in the end, though there were lots of problems to cope with so far and I had to change the plan frequently.

Initially, CLIL-ite had a plan to focus on the ONLINE CLIL Teacher Education Program (CTEP), but it could not work so well because it took much time to prepare the ONLIN contents and the course participants (teachers) could not have time to study individually as I had expected before. I had several revisions for the course but failed.

As for the workshops, CLIL-ite planned 6 workshops but one workshop was canceled due to some reasons. Five workshops were successfully held in total. In each workshop most participants enjoyed studying CLIL pedagogies and were satisfied with the lectures, discussions, and activities. The problem, however, may include the management fees including finding the place to do the workshop and the expenses to manage it. Most instructors had to work on a volunteer basis. CLIL-ite needs to have still more financial support.

The oversea seminar in Finland in 2022 was successful regardless of the COVID-19 and the Ukraine and Russia war. In 2023, we will have another seminar in Vienna, Austria. The big problem is still the high-cost air ticket and accommodation expenses due to Japan's weaken yen. We all hope the current terrible situation will change for the better.

The CLIL-ite activities include a variety of CLIL development, in which

there may be diversity, equity, and inclusion of integrated learning. Learning is not just aimed at piling up knowledge and skills, winning against someone or something, and achieving your goal, but also at developing yourself, being able to think deeper, and creating your own identity. CLIL-ite, of course, focuses on teacher education, which means that we believe teacher is the most important role for learners. Especially, CLIL teachers need to cultivate more integrated knowledge and skills as well as growth mindset for learning and teaching.

However, I have realized for the past one year since I was retired and started this institute that CLIL is not sufficiently familiar among many people including parents and children, businesspersons, and teachers including language teachers. Also, many people have misunderstood CLIL or have just understood it is a type of English-only approaches that students can learn English in a different context from English classrooms at school. I have therefore slightly changed the strategies for CLIL implementation in Japan: 1) to let more people be familiar with CLIL; 2) to provide more opportunities for people to understand what CLIL is and how natural CLIL approaches are, and 3) to help change learners' mindsets of learning languages.

In order to do so, I set the following specific goals to achieve in 2023 in the CLIL-ite activities and I hope it will work well.

1. To promote the ONLINE CLIL program and make some J-CLIL Accredited Teacher (JAT) in 2023.
2. To provide in-person CLIL workshops for teachers and people who are interested in CLIL pedagogy in some local areas with some different topics.
3. To plan and hold oversea seminars in Europe and Asia such as Vienna, Austria and Hanoi, Vietnam.
4. To plan and hold ONLIN seminars of some specific CLIL topics such as translanguaging, 4Cs, materials, and lesson plans.
5. To develop CLIL ONLINE materials as open-access resources such YouTube video clips.
6. To hold some CLIL community events for local people including parents, children, students, and teachers to share ideas of some specific topics using English and Japanese.

Thanks a lot.