

天主教輔仁大學英國語文學系學士班畢業成果  
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT, FU JEN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATION PROJECT 2019

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**Perceptions of FJU and SVC Students on Culture**

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Learning Outcome Demonstration: Saint Vincent Project

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### Perceptions of FJU and SVC Students on Culture

Saint Vincent project has been one of the major courses which held in Department of English language and Literature in Fu Jen Catholic University every Spring semester since 2012. This project aims to build awareness of the integration of culture into English language teaching and learning. Simultaneously, the goal of the program is to offer English major students an opportunity to get the cross-cultural experience through cooperating with foreign students. It has become the tradition to work with a group of American college students (Saint Vincent College, US) for the Guo-Tai Summer Camp. The project will be demonstrated as a camp which held in Guo-Tai elementary school in the end of June or the beginning of July every Summer. Generally, students who participate in this project spend the whole semester studying the basic teaching theories and skills, coming up with the lesson plans that may suit the elementary students, and analyzing the similarities/differences between Asian and Western culture. In the end of the semester, Fu Jen students will be divided into several groups to attend the class observation in order to do the preparation and revise the lesson plans. The result of the effort will be shown in the 3-days Summer camp. The Saint Vincent project not only applies cross-cultural communication but the theories of teaching English to speakers of other languages (also known as TESOL) to pedagogic practice in a local elementary school.

Being one of the English major students who has spent almost three years reading literary texts, I personally consider it is also necessary and important for us to explore the field of English teaching. It will be a chance for me to learn more about the culture, history, and the theory of TESOL through interacting with the foreign

students and cooperating with them to teach the children in elementary school. In the end of the Fall semester in 2017, the promotional video of the Saint Vincent project did attract me a lot. I was interested in the content of the course and decided to give it a try. Therefore, I filmed self-introduction video to show my passion toward this program. Fortunately, I was selected as one of the members who will attend the Summer Camp. It is my pleasure to be in the project, in which I did learn the ways people from different cultural background think, communicate, and behave based on the value systems, worldviews, and implications that ground them. To take a closer look at the Saint Vincent project, the course focuses on the knowledge, builds frameworks from established theories of TESOL and cross-cultural communication for critical analysis and cross-cultural teaching/learning. Being one of the core points which is emphasized, cross-cultural communication is well presented in SVC project since we not only share both Asian and Western culture with the kids in Guo-Tai but learn from each other (students from Fu Jen and Saint Vincent) through working together. After participating in the three-day service-learning project, both Saint Vincent and Fu Jen students benefit from the process of re-thinking, negotiating, and transforming the values of multiculturalism through cooperation and interaction. In the following paragraphs, I would like to introduce the lesson plans we design for the kids and the sight-seeing process we set for SVC students in the project. In the end of the essay, I will share the reflection of the camp from both Fu Jen and SVC students as the re-thinking for all of us to keep and improve.

To begin with, I would like to explain the major lesson plans we came up with during the semester and the goals of the project. There are two of the lesson plans were selected as the final content which would be taught in the camp. The first one is wedding culture. In this project, we not only teach the kids in Guo-tai the vocabularies which are related to wedding but introduce the tradition and what people

used to do on the wedding day. Both Saint Vincent and Fu Jen students had chance to introduce the tradition and custom of Taiwanese and American wedding. Through putting the lesson plan into practice, we could not only take a deeper look at our own culture but learn from each other. The second lesson plan we designed for the kids focused on the color and pattern which we can easily find out on the daily clothing. By doing so, the students in Guo-Tai could acquire the basic and daily vocabularies and have the ability to describe their clothing and daily outfit in English. In addition to memorizing the words, the children got the opportunity to take a closer look at the traditional Taiwanese and American clothing as well. In order to put the main goal “think globally, act locally” into practice, the purpose of the lesson plan is to introduce kids both Asian and Western culture, history, tradition, and thoughts while teaching them English. During the Spring semester, the students in Fu Jen had lots of discussion to come up with the lesson plans which is suitable for the elementary children. Through delivering the content of traditional wedding and clothing, we would like to build the skills needed to apply their knowledge to address issues of cross-cultural adaptation and social integration including issues involving ethnic, racial, gender, and class differences in actual pedagogic practice.

In addition to the lesson plans which are mentioned above, we also set a series of sight-seeing schedule in the afternoon during the three-day camp in order to share the beauty of Taiwan with the students from Saint Vincent and have a deeper understanding about each other. The schedule of the sight-seeing aims to focus on Taiwanese food culture, history, pop culture and the fashion. On the first day, Fu Jen students held a pizza party to welcome the Saint Vincent students. Both the Taiwanese and American students had a brief self-introduction and had the teaching demonstration together as the preparation for the Guo-Tai Summer Camp. On the first day of the camp, we went to Taipei 101 and had Din Tai Fung as dinner to show the

food which represent Taiwanese spirit and introduce traditional Asian food. On the second day, the Saint Vincent students toured Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall in order to have a deeper understanding about the history of Taiwan. On the last day, the students in Fu Jen guided the American students to Ximending and introduced the traditional Taiwanese temple culture to the Saint Vincent students. During the sight-seeing, both the students in Fu Jen and Saint Vincent not only share the personal opinions toward the International issues but the personal experience and stories with each other. Furthermore, we exchange the thoughts about the Guo-Tai Summer Camp and came up with several solutions to make the project better on the way to the spots. It's a great opportunity to learn different perspectives and culture through introducing Asian and Western features to each other while sight-seeing.

Participating in the Saint Vincent project did bring the students the life-long memories which may influence their life and change their attitude toward the things. On the last day of the camp (the third day), the Fu Jen students had a short interview with the Saint Vincent students as the reflection. The purpose of filming the interview video is to find out the solution in order to make the camp which will be hold in 2019 much more perfect. During the interview, all the Saint Vincent students gave the positive comments to the Summer Camp and showed their passion toward teaching foreign students English. Simultaneously, the American students considered Taiwan is an island which contain lots of possibilities. One of the teachers from Saint Vincent, Brother Robert, considers that participating in the camp is a nice experience, and it's great to work with the students in Fu Jen. As for the part of cross culture communication, Brother Robert considers that Taiwanese people provide warm hospitality for the people who come from other countries, he appreciates the arrangement which Fu Jen students have done for people from Saint Vincent, especially the sightseeing part. During the Summer Camp, Brother Robert found that

both Taiwan and America share the same ways in language teaching, such as using the flashcard. Moreover, he learned a lot from the students in Fu Jen this Summer, learning Chinese culture from the activity in class is one of the examples. Being one of the participants, he's very happy to be here with Fu Jen students and the kids. The mission trip is really interesting and amazing. On the other hand, one of the students, Gabby, who has participated in the project for four years, considers that it will be great to combine both the learning style in Taiwan and America. The education in Taiwan tends to emphasize the memorization. In the States, the students learn something new through filling the answers and finishing the worksheets. With no doubt, the service learning project is one of the best ways to teach English. In the project, Fu Jen students play an important role to let children understand the content in class. Last but not the least, she does love the hospitality in Taiwan.

On the other hand, as for Fu Jen students' reflection, one of the students from Fu Jen, Angellina, considers that putting aside all the problems that occurred in those three days, she did enjoy the time spent with the Saint Vincent students, Guo-Tai children, and also her friends from Fu Jen. She's proud that she is able to deal with the problems in a short time with the help of her friends and make things go with the plan. Even though some of the events didn't go as planned but we handle it well. Also, the other students who works in the project, Emily, thinks that she is extremely proud of being able to manage a two day event that challenged her ability to handle children and the challenges they bring with them; to communicate and give out instructions though two languages, and take up a role somewhat like a translator; and most of all to have made such amazing friends, both those of FJU and those of SVC, and she herself truly wishes to keep them for a life time. After the camp, she personally considers she has gained a little more confidence within herself, as well as improved a



little in terms of her ability to solve problems, to work with unfamiliar individuals, and to keep organized even in the most messed-up of times.

It's honored to say that the camp is successful which not only provides both Fu Jen and Saint Vincent an opportunity to have cross-cultural communication experience and the chance to teach elementary children English. As the conclusion part, it's my great honor to participate in the 2018 Saint Vincent project. Cooperating with the group members and coming up with the creative lesson plans are not an easy but challenging thing. Being the students majoring in English Language and Literature, it's a great opportunity to work as a member in the project which provide us the chance to take a closer look at the English teaching field and interact with foreign students at the same time. After the three-day Summer Camp, there are both the advantages we can learn from the project and the disadvantages which are worth to be improved. Overall, the project aims to build the awareness of the integration of culture into English language teaching and learning which includes direct method, content method, content-based instruction, communicative language teaching, translation, audio-lingual method, role-play demonstration, and review. The collaboration will challenge students to learn about the ways people from different cultural background think, communicate, and behave based on the value systems, worldviews, and implications that ground them. It's an amazing experience to meet the people from Saint Vincent and Guo-Tai, I'm looking forward to joining the 2019 project.

Word count: 1982



# 2018 FJU-SVC Service Learning Project: Guo-Tai English Camp

## ABOUT THE CAMP

1. FJU-SVC Service-Learning Project: since 2012/06. FJU: Fu Jen English Dept., SVC: Saint Vincent College, Pennsylvania, USA.
2. The project's focus: English teaching & cross-cultural communication by serving students in Guo-Tai elementary school.
3. 2018 FJU-SVC Guo-Tai English camp: July 1: Orientation, July 2 & 3: Guo-Tai Summer Camp.

## GOALS & FOCUSES

1. Applying theories of TESOL and cross-cultural communication to pedagogic practice: implementing a service-learning project in a local elementary school.
2. Developing cross-cultural competency: working with a group of American college students (SVC)
3. Establishing and strengthening collaboration: learning about the ways people from different cultural backgrounds think, communicate, and behave based on the value systems, worldviews, and implications that ground them.

## LEARNING EXPERIENCES

1. Fostering awareness of the integration of culture into English language teaching and learning.
2. Developing competence of serving others by contributing our professional knowledge and love to those in local communities.
3. Building the skills needed to apply our knowledge to address issues of cross-cultural adaptation and social integration including issues involving ethnic, racial, gender, and class differences in actual pedagogic practice.

## Preparation

### 1. Teaching Demo:

- a. Topic: American Tipping culture
- b. Observation

#### i. Goals:

1. Help students recognize vocabulary and expressions about places and people they will encounter while giving tips.

2. Help students understand American culture

- ii. Problems: Elementary students couldn't understand some grammar rules and vocabulary words.

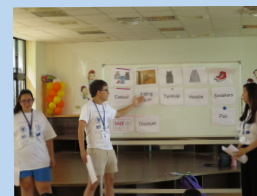
#### iii. What we learn from the teaching demo:

1. Recognize possible problems
2. Plan ahead

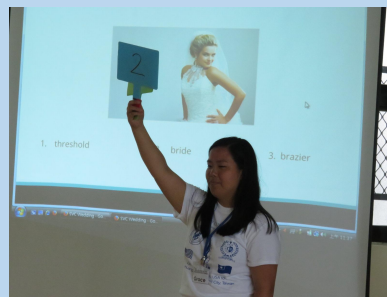
### 2. Final Lesson Plans:

- a. Wedding Cultures in Taiwan and America
- b. Casual & Traditional Clothing (change this one to Second poster)

LESSON PLAN







# Implmentation

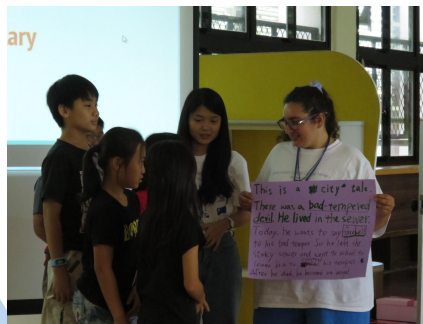
## 1. Wedding Lesson plan

- Different wedding cultures in Taiwan and America
- Collaboration and interaction among FJU, SVC, and Guo-Tai students



## 2. Chinese Yoyo

- Offer SVC students an opportunity to experience one of the traditional Taiwanese sports.



## 3. Cross-Cultural Exchange

- Interaction (cross-cultural communication):
  - Introducing Taiwanese culture
  - Sharing personal experiences and stories
- Schedule:
  - Day 1: Taiwanese food culture and Taipei City
  - Day 2: History: Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall
  - Day 3: Pop Culture and Fashion: Ximending, night-market, and KTV



INTERVIEW

