

*Citizenship Responsibility Higher Learning: Combining the Spiritual-Cultural,  
Rights-Responsibilities, and Economics of a Civic Development Higher Learning  
through a Sociology in English*

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## **I. Educational philosophy and practice: socio-educational and socio-cultural threefolding**

Rudolf Steiner's ideas about a threefold social organism (Lamb, 2008; Uhrmacher, 1995), were born out of a conversation Steiner had with Otto von Lerchenfeld, who had asked Steiner what could be done for our global world to experience lasting peace.

Lerchenfeld felt that unless fundamental changes in modern society were made, there would be ongoing social unrest. Steiner's conception of the threefold social organism – rights life, spiritual-cultural life, and economic life all equal but intertwined – was offered as a way to answer Lerchenfeld's question. Referring to the spiritual-cultural sphere in particular, Steiner maintained that a healthy spiritual-cultural life is not interested in merely fostering individualism and self-development which, he says, is the goal of the economic life. A healthy spiritual-cultural life also seeks to foster concern and care for others and the world at large, where people go beyond purely personal development desires to include concern and care for others.

Steiner, however, recognized that humans are of little service to themselves or to others and the world at large if they do not actively strive to develop their latent capacities and also new capacities. A provider of what Steiner calls any type of cultural service, a teacher for, example, “needs to “compete” for the appreciation of potential families who might (wish to) send their children to the school where said teacher is engaged ” (Lamb, 2008: 42). Those conditions absolutely necessary for healthy competition in the spiritual-cultural sphere – which includes education – are: freedom of thought, free appreciation, and freedom of choice. In short, the spiritual-cultural realm is,

balanced by the cultivation of a sense of responsibility,  
tolerance, and love that leads to a concern for others,  
and the development of capacities to be of service  
to society (Lamb, 2008: 42)

Whereas spiritual-cultural life is based on thought development or thinking, economic or business life is, according to Steiner, closely related to the will element in the soul life of the human being. How business is conducted has direct bearing on the evolution of humanity wherever it is, in its spiritual, ethical, and moral sense. The third part of the threefold social organism is what Steiner calls the rights life, and in this realm the main concern is not so much personal development or efficient production. Rather, the main concern is with human relations, how people relate to one another in all types of situations and activities such as fairness, civility, standards of (personal and group) conduct, proscriptions, agreements, and safety and comfort. In a healthy threefold social organism or society, argues Steiner, equality must prevail in the rights realm.

Steiner concludes that in modern society, whether conceived locally or globally, humanity suffers from the reality that it is economic life which has developed at a far more rapid rate than either the spiritual-cultural life or the rights life. The result, says Steiner, is that not only does the economic life have insufficient ethical and legal guidelines, it (the economic life) needs to accept what the other two realms develop in and offer to humanity. It is economic life, Steiner says, which dominates and directs both the spiritual-cultural life and

rights life, and this dominance includes education. As economic interests continue to dominate at an accelerating rate,

the spiritual-cultural life can not be fostered and humans cannot adequately develop the spiritually creative forces and ideas needed to counter the destructive tendencies of the economic life (Lamb, 2008: 44)

Classroom life and study can be thought of as a threefold social sphere which encompasses the economic, the rights-responsibilities, and the spiritual-cultural. Put another way, social life in the classroom involves power relations and rights-responsibilities (political considerations), caring and sharing and cooperative-collaborative endeavors (spiritual-cultural relations), and competitive individual development (economic considerations). In order that there be a healthy threefold social sphere in the classroom, all three intertwined sub-spheres must be equally developed and work together.

Referring specifically to education, the concern of this Asian Conference on Education, Morrison (2008) maintains,

if we ever hope to have schools that are engaging and truly embody democracy, then the classes within them must provide opportunities for students to experience autonomy, freedom, and choice in what is studied. (2008:1)

Morrison goes on to argue that schools and society are reflections of one another. What any society values and sees as ideal often, she says, gets taught in schools. Furthermore, what and how children are taught results in their developing certain ideals and values that are perpetuated in the wider society once these students become adults and go into society as local and global citizens. These values may very well include in this modern capitalistic-bent world of ours, a competitive ethos, a conviction that meritocracy is the norm, a view that instrumental-extrinsic motivations are more important, and an excess valuing of academics (i.e. knowledge and skills) over values/ideals and social or emotional development.

Schools are also, Giroux (1988) maintains, terrains of struggle or places and spaces where contradictory values and ideals compete for prominence. Proponents of a democratizing education argue that people who are given freedom and choice will eventually become better democratic citizens simply because they have learned how to negotiate with others, to identify obstacles and paths of resistance, to know themselves and others.

They are also open to change and listening to others as they all consider themselves to be vital to the development of a vibrant and healthy social threefolding.

Christainsen, Garvin, and Sweet (1991) contend that higher education has become more isolated from the kinds of learning people require for their life competencies and further argue that a disposition to study and learn across the entire curriculum in an integrated fashion must be the rationale of a higher education; if not, they maintain, institutions and practitioners will have failed to serve the higher learning needs of students. The main value then that a higher education can impart to students is this pre-disposition to love learning *across an integrated curriculum* above any ability only or primarily to learn only in

any one or more isolated part(s) of that curriculum. This pre-disposition is far more urgent than that students passively bank knowledge, skills, values, or ideals, or that they (students) are not themselves actively engaged in constructing or reconstructing their learning. Abe, Perrin, and Woolbright (1995) go further in maintaining that a higher education's main role and responsibility is to help students define the important characteristics of adult citizenship.

There is, and has been for a very long time an urgency – though too few people have too infrequently recognized it or advocated for it – for a higher education mission that integrates a language of wider use and communication (LWUC) English, and academic and social development content in the Japanese university context. Brady (1997) argued that,

The continued acceptance and practice of isolating communicative English language teaching and research from native language (Japanese) academic study bodes ill for the future and further development of the university in Japan. (Brady, 1997: 85)

It is the main argument of this paper that an integrated and self-directed, student engaged teacher led and assisted social threefolding which combines the study/learning of and in a language of wider use and communication (i.e. English LWUC) and academic and social development content (e.g. sociology study), can best satisfy the concerns of those educators who hope to have an active and well-educated adult citizenry to help develop and nurture their local and global societies. As Barnett (1997, 2000) contends, a higher education must provide students experiences which encourage them to (1) reflect on their thoughts and actions, (2) reinterpret presenting situations where they see the curriculum not as an imposition but as a set of possibilities and practical hopes framed in large part by themselves, and (3) develop a continuous expression of both a skeptical and questioning outlook geared to the continuous and recursive reappraisal of their own individual and collective learning.

Bisong (1995) believes, and I firmly agree, that English as a LWUC opens up new opportunities for a society and its people. It can, he says, help a society become multilingual and multicultural, and also offer its citizens a richer linguistic repertoire and an expanding consciousness. Beyond the many limitations of English language study which have existed and dominated in Japan for far too long, LWUC English study, integrated with content as the driving force, has the potential to help sociology students develop a more flexible and critically aware approach to their study and learning.

English as a LWUC can also help students, and faculty and the university community as a whole, increase awareness of local and global society and their social roles as Prodromou (1992) argues.

What we teach and particularly the way we teach reflects our attitudes to society in general and the individuals' place(s) in society. It also reflects our educational practice as an implicit statement of power relationships, of how we see authority in the classroom and outside. Just as the mother tongue in Freire's *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* becomes a process of increasing consciousness of one's

society, so too may the teaching and learning of (and in I add) a foreign language. (1992:74-75)

Success in language teaching and learning in Japan, including also most unfortunately at the tertiary level, is too often conceptualized and then practiced – and measured for its success as well – in terms of how well students passively learn or acquire reading, writing, listening, and speaking knowledge and/or skills in their engagement with or use of the language. Language teaching and learning may be primarily measured for its “success” in how well students “master” linguistic language (e.g. grammatical competence). and/or pass competency examinations. If students are lucky enough, they will have teachers who prioritize intercultural communicative competence learning. But as necessary as this aim might be for language engagement and use it is not in and of itself sufficient to help students link their language learning with social change and participation (Brady, 2004, 2006).

A life-long love of and for language study/learning and intercultural communication contributing to a participatory citizenry for constructive social change, can only happen if teachers and the curriculum and syllabus respond to students’ needs to connect the language they study and learn to the real concerns that they have in their lives, which involve school, family and relationships, changing identity formation, curiosity and uncertainty, and worries about the future. This is a responsive view of language study supported by a many applied linguists such as Harrison (1999), Littlejohn (2004), Lange (1994), Brady (2004, 2006), and Brady and Shinohara (2000, 2003).

According to Tanabe (1978) English in Japan operates as a borrowed subject/object language, not as a language of wider use or communication, or as a locally or globally useful means of intercultural communication. Imamura(1978) argues that university faculty engaged in the teaching and researching of English language must re-examine their basic approach to language education, and is concerned with the following five issues:

1. What is language and language study for?
2. Why teach and study/learn language?
3. Which non-native (i.e. non-Japanese) language(s) need be taught and studied in Japan?
4. Who benefits and how do they benefit from such study?
5. How should language be taught?

Suzuki (1978) pointed to a perhaps more fundamental problem with the conceptualization and practice of English study at university. He noted that there is far too inadequate attention to and concern with language study as (my italics) *educational growth*. The teacher of/in English must:

be aware of the notion that his or her work consists of two basic elements: language and teaching. We English university faculty think only about English ignoring the element of teaching. Since teaching is included in a broader concept of education, it is possible to name our deficiency as lack of attention to education. (1978: 84 )

Mark (1990) has highlighted such a multidimensional view of language teaching and learning – cited in Brady (2006) – which highlights the role of language teachers as educators where,

in the language learning process the teacher and students alike have room for personal growth and betterment in understanding themselves and the world we live in. (Mark. 1990:11)

Thematic content of whatever nature, academic and/or personal, and which serves as the driving force for language study, can interact with various channels of experience (e.g. perception, attitude, information or knowledge, and skills or dispositions), and also with individual and collective social identity (i.e. lifestyle, sense of purpose, past experience(s), etc.). The central concerns of this intersection are autonomy, responsibility, self-esteem, cooperation, and participation. A wider educational growth view and practice of language learning, integrated with and directed by content engagement for participation and social change, takes as its starting point the communicatively-shared and communally-shared development of life-enhancing dispositions such as:

asking questions and being inquisitive,  
guessing, hypothesizing, and being curious,  
being compassionate and showing empathy for others,  
being less judgmental and prejudicial,  
making informed decisions,  
managing time and responsibilities to self and others,  
being more independent and self-reliant,  
being less competitive all the time and more cooperative,  
tolerating ambiguity and difference and being able to risk,  
sharing explicit and implicit understandings,  
being more flexible and adaptable.

## **II. What is or can be a higher education global citizenship integrated language and content development?**

Blanton (1992) argues, and I agree, that education often violates the deepest needs of the human spirit by (1) alienating and boring or dulling teachers and students/learners, and/or (2) by failing to address in any meaningful ways the real issues of importance in our lives. These real issues have been articulated by Splitter (1995) as follows:

- a. Does (my) life have meaning, and if so, what is that meaning?
- b. Do I have gifts that the world wants and needs?
- c. Who and what can I trust?
- d. How can I rise above my fears and prejudices?
- e. How do/can I deal with suffering, my own and others?
- f. How do I keep hope(ful)?

Splitter (1995) argues that educational quality must be defined in terms of the thinking and feeling development of students. Schools, in his estimation are and continue to be agents of manipulation as well as preservers and protectors of the status quo rather than facilitators

for personal and social enrichment and liberation. Most schools, says Splitter, confuse educating with a far more narrow and primarily economic-oriented view of training, an idea that is supported by people such as Cutts (1997), McVeigh (2002), and Refsing (1992) in particular. Teachers concerned with developing a deeper more critical thinking and feeling in students must recognize, he says, that “in the real world outside the classroom thinking among ordinary citizens may be more of a threat than a priority” (1995:1).

There are certain dispositions, according to Splitter (1995) which can guide a philosophy of thinking and feeling for those educators who wish to go beyond training students whether for jobs or to fit into society as it is already constituted, which Forbes (2005) calls responsibility *to society*. These dispositions are:

- a. argumentation skills,
- b. inquiry skills, especially the search for reasons and not accepting what is given and true,
- c. identification, modification, and application of criteria to form judgments and make decisions,
- d. making distinctions to allow people to see the complexity of a situation, event, problem or solution, an act or decision,
- e. the ability to identify relationships to help us make sense of things (i.e. causes and effects, means and ends, parts and wholes),
- f. the exercise of moral imagination by which we think of different ways about doing things.

Splitter’s advocacy of what he calls a “philosophy for thought” needs to be expanded and widened to include spiritual higher learning, especially when that study and learning takes place at/in a Christian or any other faith-created institution such as is the case at Kwansai Gakuin University in the Kansai area of Japan, where this writer teaches and researches in that university’s Sociology Department. How can we teachers find ways in our study with students to explore those deeper dimensions of teaching, learning, and living. By spiritual is meant the never-ending human quest for connectedness with others and the world we see and experience, as well with all that which we can not possibly know or see for certain, something larger and more trustworthy than our own egos, in short, the total mystery of our being alive together and sharing life together.

When we higher education teachers and students enter the classroom we bring our physicality and spirituality with us, says Palmer, so we can choose to either reflect upon or avoid those questions we live with every day, and how we are living them. We teachers, can if we choose, together with students, prioritize dialogue over lecture, collaboration and cooperation over competition, and democracy over authoritative control. But, as Palmer realizes, interrogating the truths that we together live in class, and which can be extended to our lives outside class as well, can easily conjure up fears that somehow we all need to “fix” one another and solve “problems.” How do or can we get over this reluctance to spiritually-culturally, economically, and politically engage with one another?

One way might be for us as teachers to consensually and cooperatively with students, challengingly but never threateningly, adopt agreed-on study ground rules that once adopted can release us from our fears and anxieties, and at the same time teach us all to live our questions with one another rather than forcing ourselves to have to find “correct” answers to

them. This we can do by dialogically opening up to one another - we to students, and students to us and each other – using life content topics to spur us to ask questions, to guess and predict (if possible) what may or may not be, to make tentative conclusions – not protestations or pontifications – about why things are or might be as they are.

Greene (1993c) believes that to truly have a shared learning experience teachers must make special efforts to listen more to students' voices in order for teachers to discover and act about what they, our students, are thinking and feeling, what most concerns them, what has meaning in life both inside and outside the classroom for them. This prime attention to students' voices, however, can create tensions with systems especially, where the overall agenda of study and learning revolves around system and teacher control, and which focuses primarily if not exclusively on our individual and socially collective responsibilities to society, not for any re-making of society.

Prime attention to students' voices can create empowerment possibilities as well, where, as Banks (1991) points out, knowledge and skills are not neutral. Both knowledge and skills, however we define them, are important purposes or instruments if you like to help people improve the physical quality and spirituality of their immediate classroom society and hopefully by extension, society in the wider more global world. Education, however, must do more; it must light paths for social change. This obligates us as teachers and educators to lead young people to promote constructive change(s) towards more just and compassionate and sustainable approaches to living and learning in a rapidly changing and increasingly complex, puzzling, more globalized, and at the same time more fragmented world.

Citizenship higher education development thus needs to focus on both the moral and civic dimensions of our living in an increasingly connected and globalized world. Citizenship higher education can be accomplished in the context of a university language learning that is explicitly connected to and integrated with meaningful life study content, and which together focuses on culture, communication, interaction, negotiation, and responsibility both to and for the immediate and wider societies. I will further develop this overall argument in due course but must now lay out the parameters of such a citizenship higher education.

This attention to and concern for developing in young adults their local and global citizenship development in class study involves the following:

- a. democracy in real-time and an end to systemic control and unquestioned teacher authority in study and learning,
- b. prioritizing what Bollinger et al. (2003) call a one-world ontology of knowledge and communication,
- c. responsibility in class to (our) society and for (our society),
- d. prioritizing the “phronesis” or process and value of study over its operational (skills) or epistemic (knowledge acquisition) results or product,
- e. a commitment to Splitter's philosophy for thought,
- f. a post-method and post-syllabus approach to higher language learning and educating,
- g. a strong or stronger communicative language teaching (CLT) than now prominently reigns in language pedagogy,
- h. re-conceptualizing and differently practicing an integrated language (sociology) content higher learning.



Murphy (1996) believes that a theme-based integrated content and language approach allows students to become knowledgeable, curious, and inquisitive about things of importance, concern, and interest. As this knowledge base grows, Blanton (1992) argues, vocabulary and other linguistic forms also grow at the same time simply because knowledge of whatever sort has no way of existing or means of expression without language and interactive communication. Lange (1994), commenting on the concept and practice of curriculum delivery, maintains that the curriculum (i.e. the learning plan), and practice or instruction (i.e. the coupling of that plan to students as they learn), are influenced by and influences students' conceptualization(s) of the world and their place in the world. The focus of any language instruction and learning, in his estimation, is to develop competence and confidence to comprehend and use language. Such a focus connects the study of and in language to the content of almost any discipline, as well as the student-learners' personal, social, and political contexts.

Higher educators, particularly those involved in language education, need to constantly wonder why language study and learning is important and what the language requirement is for. Analysis of language and/or any approach which treats language as isolated compartmental subject or object learning, whether "communicatively oriented" or not, is not sufficient to justify the inclusion of a language learning component in a specialized content-area higher education such as sociology. The proper orientation, says Lange (1994):

must be toward a level of language use or proficiency where students use that proficiency to learn about themselves in the world ... it is at this point that language learning becomes an important element in a higher education. The suggested principle only works with cooperation in other areas of the liberal or specialized curriculum to provide for language use  
(1994: 4)

Hallet (1999:24) argues that expanding students' communicative competence when studying (in) a content area and teaching through a language other than the native language equips students with the necessary skills to communicate more confidently and easily about (1) their own culture and society/civilization, (2) history and geography, (3) the socio-cultures of the target language, and (4) universal and global experiences and intercultural and multicultural phenomena. Additional aims and "payoffs" of an integrated content and LWUC university education can be (a) to introduce students to the textual discourses of a particular discipline (e.g. sociology), (b) to help students develop academic literacy skills in the LWUC, and (c) to teach students discipline-specific vocabulary that can and will help them pursue their future careers and also prepare them to continue their studies in the LWUC at a postgraduate level.

Higher education, critically including the language study provision, cannot contribute to citizenry or national development unless it abandons its operation as a passive activity with fixed curriculum, authoritative control structures, and other status quo arrangements that justify a continued banking knowledge transmission path to study and learning. I will now continue this story by using additional social science/sociological and applied linguistics research support to further conceptualize and give hope of actually practicing the above.

### III. Reconceptualizing the practice of a sociology in English: social science and (language) educational concerns.

Social science support for an integrated content-language learning (CLIL) centered on a socially responsible and accountable citizenship development comes from Bauman (1989:179) who argues:

The existential modality of the social (unlike the societal) has been seldom held at the focus of sociological attention. There is no sociological consensus as to the meaning, experiential content and behavioural consequences of the primary condition of being with others'. The ways in which that condition can be made sociologically relevant are yet to be fully explored in sociological practice.

Barnes (2000) maintains that the relationship between the individual, society, and social structure has not been addressed with proper regard for social interaction. Society is often conceived in purely structural "otherness" terms, or in very individualistic terms. Too much attention is given to the subjective and the objective at the expense of the intersubjective. Barnes argues that the central problems of sociology are those of collective or social agency. "Responsibility" has not been a compelling central element in the construction of any major social theory where,

understanding the everyday employment  
of this concept, with its double significance  
- psychologically it implies internal  
capacities, sociologically it implies  
liability and answerability – is also  
(my italics) *the key to understanding  
of the role of 'choice', 'agency', and  
related concepts in everyday contexts.*  
(2000: xii)

Sociological theory and practice, like that in other social sciences, is the scientific study of feelings and ideas in social behavior. Society, says King (2007), cannot be understood as interaction of independent individuals nor in terms of structural, economic, or biological determination. Human consciousness and understanding, he believes, are fundamental to all forms of social life, and people must orient themselves to shared meanings because their actions can be coordinated only insofar as all have a common understanding of what they are trying to achieve. Ongoing classroom communication and class social life as, and in, a one-world ontology can itself become an important content area locus of transformation. Johnson (1997) argues that in a modern society that values individualism and is dominated by it, the idea that a society is just people may seem obvious. This is true of classroom society as well. Yet, this approach ignores the difference between people who participate in social life (e.g. class study), and the many varied relationships that connect participants to one another and to other groups and societies through their participation in a social life system such as schooling. People, says Johnson, often participate in systems without feeling or believing they are a part of them, and that

they in fact make them happen. The “classroom” “social study” system is not simply comprised of an aggregate of individuals.

Class social life is a system with connected individuals and connected groups who participate and relate to each other in a number of ways. People are what make any system “happen,” and without their participation any system exists only as an idea with some physical reality attached. Nevertheless, a system affects how we think, feel, and behave as participants. People make systems happen, and systems lay out paths of least resistance to shape participation. Johnson (1997) says that most of what we accept as reality consists not of things as they really are, but of ideas that we develop about things as we think, feel, or believe they are, where believing is seeing. The classroom is a real social context, and is, according to Andrewes (2005), more than the study of language or content “out there” in the “real world.” The classroom can be used for communication development and knowledge construction where the main role of language, communication, and knowledge-building in social life is neither functional nor strategic, but affective. Classroom social life can be directed towards defining and molding relationships in a community. We always participate in something larger than ourselves (i.e. systems). As social life flows from this relationship, we need to consider that we are all involved, if only indirectly, in any social consequences that result, whether beneficial or not.

Simply making a connection between sociology content and language learning by itself, however, is not sufficient for students to better understand the nature of responsible and accountable social life.

I believe sociology students can better understand “sociology in English” if they are actually involved in experiencing the nature of their own unfolding social life in their learning, rather than looking at social life as an “outside self” subject or object. “Sociology in English” should be conceived, and practiced, as a one-world ontology exploration of (1) our knowing about the social world, and (2) what we communicate and how we communicate with each other about social systems and our participation in them. A “sociology in English” is (1) social life in shared and connected participatory communication, and (2) shared and connected participatory communication in social life.

How life transpires inside class has potential to transform the quality of life that goes on outside class when study is focused on the life-world of the community as a whole, not on individualistic “what’s in it for me” concerns. Content and language integrated learning or CLIL is an approach which has gained currency among language educators who seek to connect language learning with content-knowledge acquisition and engagement. The teaching approach, outlined in parts IV and V of this paper, is also a response to what Johnson (1997), Sandelands (2003), Baumann (1989), King (2007), Forbes (2005), and Barnes (2000) feel is most urgent in sociological practice: re-directing it away from the study of social life as the life of interacting individuals, towards a more socially responsible study of the lived nature of cooperative social life itself.

The study of and in modern languages can ideally lead to evolution of “intercultural being” or the understanding of the varied and multiple realities people are all part of (Phipps and Gonzalez, 2004). Study participants can be sensitized to cultural difference which can reduce ethnocentric bias using creative activities conducted in the L1 and/or the L2. The education of genuinely open-minded, culturally-sensitive university graduates, who have had experience(s) being strangers in a foreign language and culture, as well as a deeper

understanding of their own language and culture, is of paramount importance, Bruen (2005) says. On a global scale intercultural understanding between people and nations has not kept pace with scientific developments or advances, Bruen (2005) contends. A case can be made, he argues, for offering as many graduates as possible opportunities to learn another useful language. And I agree with Bruen (2005) that global society needs critical and imaginative thinkers who understand that most arguments are multi-faceted, and who are open to others' views and who realize the world is both complex and wonderful.

Andrewes (2005) maintains that classroom social life, which focuses on language-communication development, and/or knowledge acquisition, does not usually exploit opportunities for participants to develop personal and social relationships to support and promote the social life learning process. CLIL focusing on responsibility *to* and *for* society, can help cement interpersonal relationships within and between connected groups of people. CLIL also builds intercultural knowledge, develops intercultural skills, and provides opportunities to study social life content through different perspectives. Research also shows that CLIL study frameworks diversify methods and forms of teaching practice, and enhance participants' awareness of different ways of (1) understanding the world, (2) what and how we communicate about the world, and (3) our place in the world as connected individuals participating in social systems.

Littlejohn (2001) believes that it is an illusion to think class language study practices have little impact beyond the learning of language. As educators, language teachers are uniquely positioned in helping to shape the views that young people have of themselves in relation to learning in general, and their relationship to and participation in systems of oppressive authoritarianism and control. Language educators can shape how young people see and value themselves as active or passive agents. Language educators need to help students develop a questioning and skeptical attitude, and what they do depends on their own sets of values and priorities, and as Littlejohn argues, their political stance as well. As much as our practices in class emulate or should emulate and reinforce individual and social responsibilities to society, we have an obligation, says Forbes (2005), to make a coherent and principled contribution to shape the future by being responsible *for* society.

#### **IV. An important prerequisite for a value-laden CLIL: The necessity of a one-world ontology of knowing and communicating**

Bollinger, Nainby, and Warren (2003) perceive a conceptual divide between contemporary communication theory and critical educational practice. At present there exist, they argue, conceptually two separate worlds, one the world we communicate with or the entire set of symbols, sounds, gestures, pictures and the things we use to communicate. The second world is the world we talk about, all of the various subjects that move us to talk to one another. Bollinger, Nainby, and Warren believe teachers must work with students to rethink and interrogate how and why we constitute the world as we do. In a one-world ontology the two stages become one where knowledge and reality can be unmasked and recreated simultaneously.

Representational two-worlds ontology models, they maintain, fail to account for the complexity of lived experiences of people in class, where the emphasis remains on systemic meanings rather than minute immediate communicative acts. Building on Freire (1970) and Stewart (1995), Bollinger et. al assert that human conditions are fully constituted in and through social interaction, and can be changed by social

interaction as well. Two-world assumptions can affect exploration with students of the socially-constituted nature of, for example, exploitation and any pedagogical possibilities to create the goal of transforming exploitative conditions. Communication, they maintain, forms the essence of social life, unifying humans and the world in which people live; communication is not a mere tool-instrumental means to achieving human world-shaping.

A one-world ontology, where language and communication have immediate effects on teaching and learning practice(s), can redirect CLIL toward a more exploratory, experiential, non-technical, and non-epistemological, life valuing phronetic approach advocated by Flyvbjerg (2001). But more than an ontological vocabulary is necessary. Young adults in Japan come from pre-university schooling that has, for the most part, been decided for them and where they have had little if any investment in decisions taken on their curriculum. It is necessary to set up teaching and learning structures in class where students have rights and obligations to voice, to question, to actively participate in shared understandings, and to make educated guesses about things they do not know.

What sort of pedagogy then can be generated in the process of class interaction? What kind of thinking, feeling, and behavior changes can be fostered by that engagement? Students in a one-world ontology of study and learning have opportunities to better understand the relationships between (their) communication and the material conditions of their (individual and social) lives, and how their lives are ongoing and sustained by the many choices they make every moment in class and whether they choose paths of least resistance or not. Students also have opportunities to see the social hegemony that is instituted in education and social life.

Students can learn to experience in their here-and-now shared participation in communication and their overall learning the constraints the world has over them and the transformative possibilities they have over the world (Shor, 1996).

## **V. Practicing a CLIL-citizenship development social life learning**

This writer is an English language sociology of education researcher-practitioner at a university in western Japan, Kwansei Gakuin University (KGU). English language study in the Sociology Department where I work is confined to first and second year general education, and is viewed in the Department as peripheral, and at best auxiliary, to study in the specialty-area (native language Japanese) mainstream part of the curricular provision. English language is not institutionally accepted as a medium of sociological practice learning, but remains entrenched as a lower priority, separate and separated subject-object of study. Students are expected to connect English language communication with sociological study on their own without any institutional assistance. Nevertheless, "Sociology in English" is a buzzword in the Sociology Department, though it has more of a public relations' role and responsibility than teaching or researching recognition or acceptance. The Department prides itself on being a "global sociology" higher education entity. Having a small percentage of the department's curriculum provision and research in a language of wider use globally (English) would, therefore, have valid educational significance. I thus decided in my class teaching to make explicit connections between language-communication and social life learning where students actually experience in their

study a "sociology in English" to explore the ongoing living nature of social life as it unfolds in the classroom.

What "happens" in class social study life can change the way(s) in which a system functions and how people choose to participate in that system. Likewise, the way(s) in which that participation happens, and how teachers treat students in class, can dampen or increase students' sense of individual and social agency as they participate in a system. Teaching language has epistemological-knowledge-building and technical linguistic aim(s), and also more general educational objectives such as socialization, cognitive development, and emotional development. Understanding roles, rules, cultural behavior, and structured participation in social life in the classroom can help develop students as explorers of their ongoing participation in social life, and consequently develop their awareness and embrace of interdependence over independence and dependence.

To effectively integrate language, content, and social and civic responsibility learning we must create the atmosphere, procedures, norms, expectations, and demands in classrooms that we see and would like to see outside in the wider more macro systems of social life. Our teaching-learning environment should reflect the values to which we hope the wider more macro society aspires, and we must make a conscious effort to create that valued improvement in our immediate class society. Students should be provided with venues for cooperative as opposed to competitive learning which can heighten their shared participation in schooling as they experience that system in class.

Flyvbjerg (2001) has argued that instead of trying to emulate the natural sciences, the social sciences should be practiced as *phronesis*. *Phronetic* social science focuses on four value-rational questions: (1) Where are we going? (2) Who gains and who loses and by which mechanisms of power? (3) Is this development desirable? (4) What should we do about it? The CLIL-citizenship development study framework in my class instruction is based on *phronesis* as much as it is concerned with experiencing, in shared participation in social life, a sociological imagination. A CLIL-citizenship development is not an end goal in and of itself, but serves to teach class study participants the value of a cooperative and collaborative learning that engages with knowledge and communication of social life.

Building and nurturing sociologically imaginative civil society in the classroom begins with students and I together proposing and agreeing to discuss topics that affect our lives on a daily basis in class and outside class, and which can help us work towards a greater awareness and understanding of the connections embodied in Flyvbjerg's four value-rational questions. A number of class study topics are suggested at the beginning of term, and I ask students' permission to allow me to raise one topic in particular to jump-start our topical dialogue. The first topic we engage in is whether or not we will value study together individually and/or collectively/communally. With students' consent, either by a vote of hands or secret ballot, we start our study with discussion on the merits of cooperative and/or competitive study, and what group study will be like, if we chose to form smaller groups. How many members will each group have, what needs to be done and who will do what needs to be done, for example?

This first topical discussion is held in English in public whole class talk that I lead, but after groups are formed, is conducted in groups in either English or Japanese as class members decide. After/if we have<sub>1</sub> decided to conduct study collectively and

cooperatively – I also take time to advocate the benefits of cooperative learning over competitive learning – we then work our way through other study issues that will help determine where we are and are going, who wins and who loses in where we are going, and what behavior we expect of ourselves in where we seem to be headed in our study.

Among the topics suggested by me or by students are:

1. What communication language(s) can we or should we continue to use and why?
2. What area(s) of social life, besides that in this classroom, would we like to study together as a large group.
3. Do we need to prepare for our study every week, and if so, how? Do we need to review previous study and if so, how?
4. How shall we evaluate teaching and learning? If we have “tests,” why and who makes them? How are they made and taken? What will “test” results be used for? What kind(s) of other evaluation(s) may be necessary and why?
5. In our study of social life, is, for example, history, geography, economics, and anthropology necessary? Why or why not?
6. Who makes decisions, how will they be made, and about what week-to-week?
7. Do we need to have social life study rules, and if so what rules, and who makes them and how? Do we agree to keep to the rules we consensually make or not? If rules are “broken” what do we do? Are there “penalties?”
8. What are some “things” we (ought to) value in our study together? For example, do we value raising questions or not, and if so about what? Do we value listening attentively to another/others when they speak?

The purpose of these start-of-term activities is for us to bond together as connected individuals and groups in our study, and to get some ideas about what aspects of social life in particular we wish to investigate more fully as the term goes on. In that regard, I advocate the benefits of studying one or two areas of social life for the rest of the term rather than jumping from one to another system area topic week-to-week. But this advocacy is not imposed on students. Everything that we discuss or do is reviewed and reflected upon in the shape of reflection notes, prepared first by myself as an imperfect model of what one can recall of a decision discussion, or activity.

After the first, second, or third class meeting reflection notes are voluntarily prepared by students as group notes – if students have chosen to form groups - and/or by individual students where we compare our recall and understanding(s) of what we

have done in our previous social life study. The class is further structured with time allotted to (1) whole-class and group greetings, announcements, and shared small talk, (2) submission of and review of previously agreed upon homework – with sufficient copies to myself and other groups of students, (3) negotiated discussion of new study and/or study already begun, and (4) further study and learning opportunities which recognize our responsibilities both to and for our study-learning society. This last structural arrangement I have labelled the difference between a “set menu” and an “a la carte menu” of study. The former is what we are obligated to study according to the already set departmental and/or course/class mission and guidelines, whereas the latter is what we together can choose to study or do free from constraints placed upon us by, for example, a uniform text, a uniform test or tests, or the institutionally other-directed set goals of our study.

This conceptual and practiced CLIL framework aims for students not only to participate in the planning and practice of the curriculum, but to *take control* of their study and learning. McKinney (2007) observes that it is necessary for study participants to be much more attentive not only to what they study (knowledge), or the skills they utilize to enhance knowledge learning. They need, McKinney argues, to hone in on *how they study and how they value what and how they study through shared dialogue*. Though my attention remains fixed on students as individuals and as members of freely chosen groups, the learning focus, however, is on shared communal learning, and in particular, how we can use the intersection of our shared language and communication and social life knowledge-building to drive and nurture a healthy threefold civil and civic-moral society in class from one week to the next.

## **VI. Concluding thoughts**

One definition of global citizenship states that if young people need to be empowered as citizens then they need to learn in an environment that actually recognizes them as citizens, and which treats and respects them as citizens. In such an environment it is critical that participants are provided numerous opportunities to practice and develop dispositions to enhance their citizenship responsibilities (Time for Rights, Unicef and Save the Children, 2002). The many decisions taken in class study, choices that are or are not made about, for example, what and how to study, or whether smaller groups and study rules need be formed and how, can and ought to be better understood by connected system participants.

Students need to be more fully aware of who they are, not only as individuals or groups, but more importantly as socially connected individuals and groups, how the world and its social life systems affect them, and also how they can have control over how the world affects them through their active participation in systems.

An integrated CLIL and citizenship approach gives promise of sociological educational practice fulfilling its principal task as argued by Barnes (2000), Baumann (1989), Johnson (1997), Forbes (2005), and King (2007), and is vital to social science as,

1. It brings into the constitutive life of class study lived and experienced issues of, for example, power, territory/dominance, roles, statuses, values, responsibilities to and for society, structure(s), and culture(s) that exist and



are real for students and teachers outside school and class life,

2. It re-affirms the importance of groups, and how people form groups and live in groups. Furthermore, it re-focuses a connection with micro-sociological practice (the interactions between connected individuals in groups, and between groups) with a more macro-view of social life.

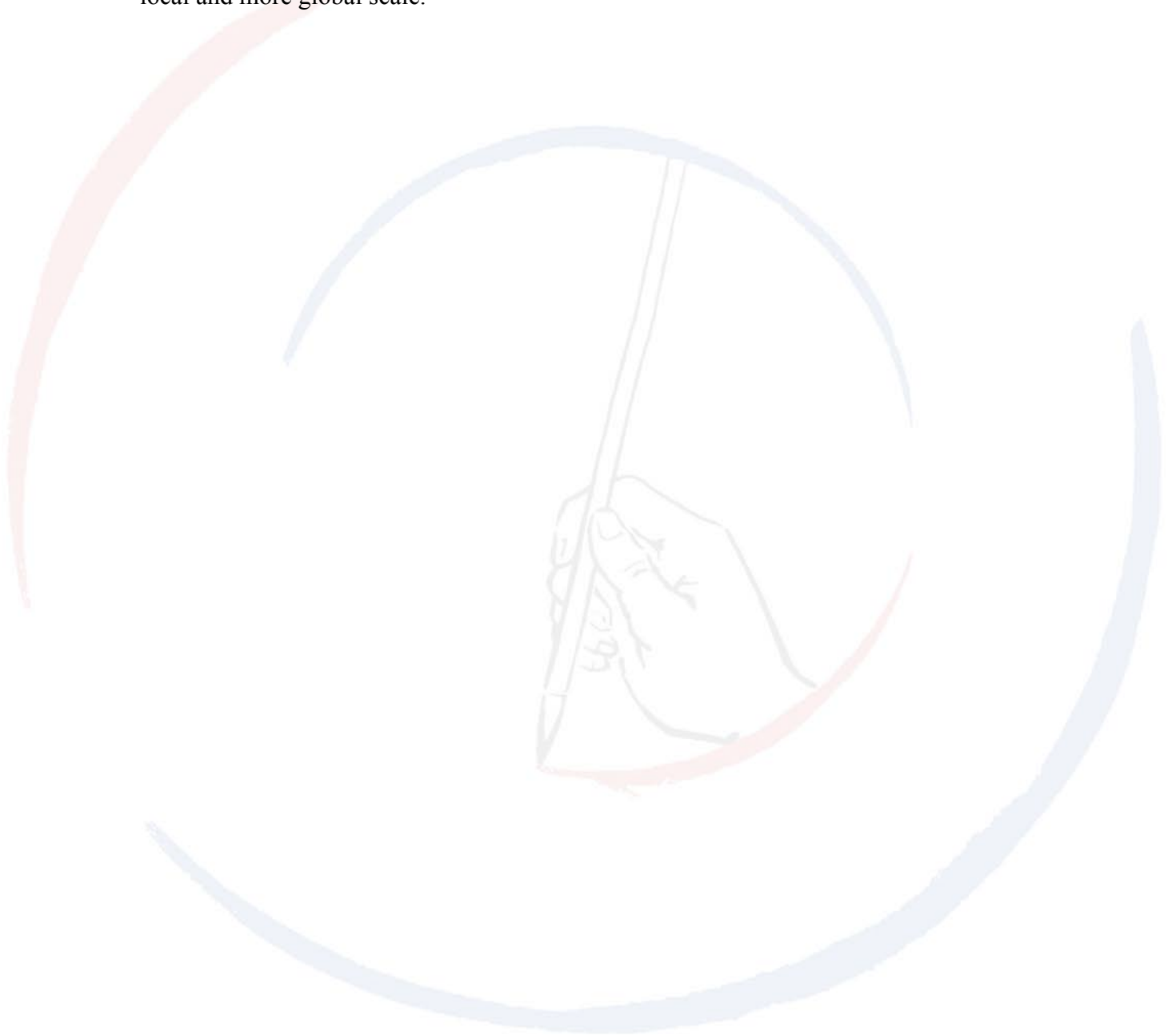
Systems do not change unless relationships change, especially where and when people choose or do not choose to take paths of least resistance. “Schooling” is as much about what people do as it is about associations we may have with the idea of “schooling” as a social system. What happens in the system (i.e. schooling and the classroom) depends on the situation the participants are in, and also how they choose to participate. People participate in social systems which have cultures containing words and ideas people can use to interpret what they experience and come to know. Humans, argues Johnson, use culture to create or recreate the world(s) they live in.

Class study culture primarily consists of symbols, especially words, contained in a language or languages, and various kinds of ideas about everything from our relations with one another to the meaning of our and others’ lives. Schooling as a social life system is an ongoing process being a work always in progress. Integrated CLIL-citizenship learning can help students see schooling as micro interaction of *connected* individuals and *connected* groups and as macro social systems in which they are part. As schooling unfolds, it emerges from how we choose from moment to moment what we are going to make of it. One-world language-communication-knowledge development, and on-going classroom social life are not subsidiary to knowledge about the world outside the classroom. Student understandings of social life and society are not distinct from how they experience their own immediate “society” as it unfolds.

The interdisciplinary language, education, and social science teaching and study approach put forth in this paper has been well received by students. In end-term surveys of how they view their study and learning, a large majority of students continually report that they do in fact have some better ideas of what “society” and “culture” are, how “structures” and “agency” relate to “culture” and how people are part of systems. Students also say that of all that they have learned in their study, individual *and* social responsibility *to and for their* class study is most beneficial for them. Future practiced research of the employment of a CLIL citizenship learning should now aim to investigate more deeply how participants view this learning process and the learning outcomes of their study.

If we as university language educators choose to focus on helping our students develop a heightened sense of local and global citizenship in a world that is being continuously connected and fragmented at the same time, and also help instill in them moral and civic responsibilities to self and to others, we are obligated to treat them as full citizens with (1) rights and responsibilities, (2) altruistic economic aims, and (3) spiritual and cultural empathy and inclusiveness. Human development and instilling socially beneficial values in young people are the publicly stated goals of Japanese education. LWUC English medium study integrated with and directed by content study has an important role to play in the implementation of this goal. However, to practice citizenship development in the classroom requires the creation and development of a framework for study that can serve as an ongoing resource to create

opportunities for civic dispositions to be (re)learned and practiced regularly. The key to creating and nurturing this framework is cooperative, collaborative, and collective thought and action by and of teachers and students to inquire into, for example, their sources of knowledge and differences in values and ideals. A study framework that prioritizes people over technology or rules or status quo arrangements can contribute to enhancing communal awareness of civic responsibility both on a local and more global scale.



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