

ESL Speech Contest 2012



YOKKAICHI UNIVERSITY
English Support Lounge

SPEAKERS

Speech Order	Speakers	Titles	Page
1	Syuhei Yumiya	Insects	1
2	Kikuko Muraki	International marriage	2
3	Den Ya	A nice memory of childhood	3
4	Li Shengjun	How to differentiate between Chinese teas	5
5	Yuna Nakai	The trolley problem	6
6	Masahiro Nakagawa	My opinion about life	8
7	Nay Myo Thiha Han	Post modern education	9
8	Akemi Gotoh	The dry season and the rainy season, how different?	11

First Prize..... Yuna Nakai

Second Prize Nay Myo Thiha Han

Third Prize Den Ya & Li Shengjun

Insects

Shyuhei Yumiya



Hello, everyone.

My name is Shyuhei Yumiya. I am nervous about speaking only in English, but I have prepared an interesting topic, so please enjoy listening.

It may sound surprising to you, but I love insects. So I will make a speech about insects today.

First of all, do you know what insects are? Insects have six legs, two wings, and a hard body. Their bodies are lighter than plastic, and very pliant. Some people also say stronger than iron.

One surprising thing is how numerous they are. Insects make up 3/4 of all living species. In fact they are the most successful creatures on earth. Insects come in a great variety of kinds, then. A kind called "*TAMAMUSHI*" is one of my favorites. I have brought a *TAMAMUSHI* along with me today to show you.

This is a *TAMAMUSHI*.

The name *TAMAMUSHI* means an insect like a jewel because it is very beautiful. This is my treasure.

There are many other wonderful kinds of insects. However, I cannot introduce any others here, so I will finish now.

Thank you for listening to my speech.



International Marriage

Kikuko Muraki



Hello, everyone. Today I want to talk about international marriage.

In America, this is known as transnational marriage. According to Wikipedia, a transnational marriage is a marriage between two people from different countries. I chose this topic because around me there are many

international marriage couples, so this made me curious.

In Japan, international marriages now make up about 5 percent of all marriages. The rate has been steadily rising. In 1980, there were 7,000 international marriages and in 2004, there were 36,039. Today I will discuss why international marriage is increasing in Japan.

Why is international marriage increasing? There are several possible reasons.

1. Globalization is bringing more people from different countries into contact every year
2. Japan is becoming more international.
3. There is the influence of marriage mediation through introduction agencies such as Marriage Introduction Hawaii.
4. Japanese people's image of international marriage has changed and Japanese people have an increased desire to know people from other countries.

A possible reason for this increased interest is the showing of positive examples of international marriage in the mass media. For example, have you seen the movie "My darling is a foreigner (ダーリンは外国人)"?

There are many more questions to look into about this topic, but for today, that has to be all.

Thank you.

A nice memory of childhood

Den Ya

I think childhood is the happiest time in life because there are so few troubles and worries at that time.

In my memory, I recall watching many animation shows from Japan and America. Now, I look back on those animations with happiness.

When I was in primary school, I would hurry back home as quickly as I could and watched animations on TV. Those animations made my childhood colorful and interesting.

The most important things animations taught me were the reasons for things, and values such as braveness, honesty, good and evil, and perseverance.

Do you know *Doraemen*? He is a lovely robotic cat from the future, but afraid of mice. *Doraemen* is my ideal pet. He is unique. He has a pocket full of strange things. Every time his owner Nobi gets into trouble, *Doraemen* takes out something strange from his pocket and rescues him. For example, Nobi doesn't like studying and has a weak memory. To deal with this, *Doraemen* once took out a slice of "memory bread." He put the bread on Nobi's textbook and copied out the contents. Then Nobi ate the bread and memorized everything. *Doraemen* also has a space and time machine which he can use to go back and forth into the past or future. It is great fun and very exciting, don't you think? I want to be Shizuka, and marry Nobi. Then *Doraemen* will be mine, as well.

Through *Doraemen*, little by little, I came to know about Japan and Japanese.

Another animation I like is from America. It is "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles". There are four turtles in it. They look like humans. Their names are from famous artists: Da Vinci, Raphael, Michelangelo, and Donatello. They can speak, and one of their favorite foods is Pizza. When they put up their



fingers and said, "Five Pizzas, please", I always laughed because turtles have only three fingers as we all know.

The American "Transformers" and Japanese "Saint Seiya" are other characters similar to the "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles." The heroes in these animations are real heroes who fight for justice and always win. From seeing these shows, I got to believe that justice always wins against evil, and that we live in a beautiful world.

"Smart Ikkyu San" taught me never to say "I can't" when I am faced with a difficult problem. When something seems unsolvable, if I use my head I can find the answer.

In "Popeye", when the sailor hero wants to make himself stronger he eats spinach. I did not like spinach before, but I learned that spinach was good for my health after seeing this animation and began to eat it. Now, I like spinach very much.

I'll never forget "Tom and Jerry", a story of a big cat and a small mouse. It is an old animation, but I still like it.

Animations reflect contemporary social conditions, and from them I got to know things about overseas countries like America and Japan. The things were not always true, for example, when I was younger, I thought that all men from America were muscular.

I have been deeply influenced by animations. I grew up with them, and they taught me a lot of values. In my childhood, when I had no view of life and no sense of values, these animations were useful to me. Now, I know that I have to be more persevering, and never give up too soon when things are difficult. If we want to get to the light, we must conquer the darkness.

I think I am a richer person for having all these good things in my past. I will always cherish the animations of my childhood. They are a fine memory that makes me happy.

How to differentiate between Chinese teas

Lee Shengjun

Good afternoon. Today I would like to demonstrate how to differentiate between Chinese teas. If you know how to differentiate between teas, you can choose the best Chinese tea for yourself.

We have thousands of kinds of tea in China, and there are many different varieties of each kind of tea. But in total, they can be categorized into seven types.

First, we have Green tea, White tea and Yellow tea. They all have the same refreshing effect on your body. But, be sure and eat something before drinking these teas.

The next is Oolong tea. Oolong tea is also good for your body, and it can help you lose weight. But, be careful not to drink this tea before going to bed, or you might lose your sleep because it has a lot of caffeine.



The next kind is Black tea. Chinese black tea doesn't mean "English tea"; it really is black in color. It helps you purge harmful things from your body. But, be careful. If you drink too much you may get diarrhea.

Next, Red tea. Red tea can help warm your body, so it's a good idea to drink some in winter.

The last one is "Flower tea". It's also called "Scented tea". You can have a good time with a cup of flower tea. It will help you feel relaxed.

Now you know how Chinese teas are categorized in a basic way. But, be careful. No matter what kind of tea you drink, make sure to throw away the first cupful before you start drinking. This is so as to wash away any harmful substances in the tea.

I hope you find a favorite Chinese tea for yourself.

Thank you.

The trolley problem

Yuna Nakai



Do you know the trolley problem?

This is a famous puzzle. A train runs at full speed. If the train goes on as it is, five workers who are on the rails will be run over. If you change the points, one worker who is on another set of rails will be run over. "Points" are a mechanical device

enabling trains to be guided from one track to another. You are the only one who can change the points. Would you pull the lever to change them?

This is the puzzle which was set by Philippa Foot in 1978, and it raises problems which have been debated many times by various people up until now. Most of them answer that they would pull the lever. However, the reasons are various.

Some people would say, "I would change the points," because:

- a. the lives of five people should be saved rather than the life of one person.
- b. if I shout, "Get off the line!", the one person can escape immediately.

Other people would say, "I would not change the points," because:

- a. if I don't change them it is an accident, but if I do change them it is a murder.
- b. it is certain that someone will die anyway, so I don't want to do anything that I don't need to do.

In addition, there are various other answers:

- a. I would confront the train, stop it somehow, and help save all the workers.
- b. This whole situation is impossible and ridiculous.

What kind of answers do you have? Simply put, this is a problem about whether you are entitled to kill one person to save five. If that one worker is a person who is dear to you, you would never pull the lever. What makes

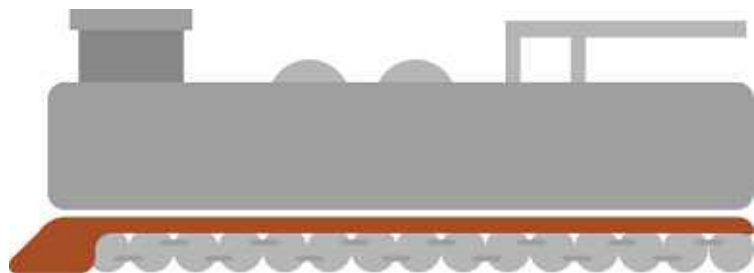
this problem so difficult is that the lives of others are at stake.

Besides, this time you are the one in the position of pulling the lever, but next time you may be placed in the position of the one worker. In other words, this is never simply a problem about other people.

Recently, I feel there are too many people indifferent to others in our modern society. This tendency is seen in both older and younger people, but in younger ones it is more noticeable.

These days, we hear a lot about suicides from bullying in school or at work, indiscriminate murders in public places, and children dying through abuse from their own parents. In a society in which things like these happen so frequently, can our way of thinking be normal?

I think we are in a happy position so long as we still feel troubled over whether we should pull the lever in the trolley problem. It means that we still have the heart to value our own lives and respect the lives of others. I think that is a precious possession, and we should do everything we can to keep our hearts in this state.



My opinion about life

Masahiro Nakagawa

Hello, everyone.

I'm Masahiro Nakagawa, a second year student, faculty of Economics, department of Management at Yokkaichi University. I'm happy to have this privilege of speaking to you today.

What I'd like to take the opportunity of talking about is the importance of living our own lives. The reason I want to talk about this is because I think we are too apt to be "yes men", not expressing our opinions. I feel too many people adapt their opinions to other people's ideas.

Some people say, "Live your own way", but I don't agree this is enough. The way I like to live is the way I really think. Our own sense of values is the primary thing. I think that is what we should stick to.

Therefore I try to live each day just by being myself. I cling to my sense of values because it is primary. In that way, I can live as myself. This is the way that is right for me, I think.

Please think about what I have said and do the same thing.

Thank you for listening.



Post modern education

Nay Myo Thiha Han

Good afternoon, everyone. I am so glad that all of you have joined us here today. I have to start by thanking everyone here, especially all the contest participants for ... should I say it again? ... for their participation. In fact, today I want to talk about the role of participation.

Since coming to this university I have been working in several activities, and sometimes I have faced difficulties through my own lack of participation. But whenever I was in such situations, some people helped me to cope with the difficulties I faced, and I learned something from this which leaves me with precious memories.

These memories are, in fact, very simple ones. I learned not so much in classrooms, in the library, or by reading books, but more from all of the people who took a part in my problems and helped me. They made me realize the value of participating. Indeed, I noticed that participation is a key role factor for activities in all situations, not only in our personal surroundings but also for civilization.

Participation may vary in pattern in accordance with the circumstances. For example, while we can participate in the activities around us, it may be less easy to participate on a large global level. But we can still make our voice heard, as concerned participants, for global warming, human rights, and an end to discrimination, violence, poverty, and inequality. All we need is a voice



and a spirit of participation. With these, we can appeal and join in the fight for other people, including discriminated groups such as women, children, and ethnic minorities. In fact, we have to learn about participation as one part of education.

Nowadays, God has blessed us with the opportunity of learning in a modern environment, with the aids of MODERN EDUCATION such as multi-media classrooms, e-libraries, online learning systems, and case studies. All of these methods are modern, all are advanced. So what comes next after modern? The answer is Post Modern. We are sure that there is a Post Modern Education beyond Modern Education in our world. But what is a Post Modern Education? Where is it?

It is strongly related to the spirit of participation. We can gain access to it ourselves in our circumstances, through our mindset and motivation. I know my speech fails to give a full statement of participation, in other words, of all that is needed in Post Modern Education. But I believe all of you realize the value and deeper meaning of participation.

Finally, I want to share with you the thought that though all of us come from diverse and faraway places, all of us can walk the same important path that leads to the brilliant future we are all looking for.

Thank you all again for your participation.

*Editor's note

A thoughtful speech; in some places, 'involvement' might also be a good word: < They made me realize the value of *involvement*. Indeed, I came to see that *involvement* is a key role factor in all activities. >

The dry season and the rainy season in Cambodia, how different?

Akemi Gotoh

I want to talk about the climate of Cambodia. Cambodia is located in Indochina. The climate is tropical monsoon, and they have two seasons, the dry season and the rainy season. The dry season is from November to April, and the temperature is from about 25 to 40 degrees. The rainy season is from May to October, and the temperature is from about 22 to 32 degrees.



In the dry season, it hardly ever rains. The rainy season is different from in Japan. It doesn't rain all day long in Cambodia, but when it does rain, it rains heavily. Umbrellas are no use at all, and people often suffer from floods. But this rain is important because the rice needs water to grow.

Now, I will show you pictures of the dry season and the rainy season in Cambodia so that you can see the differences for yourselves.

(From here on, slide commentaries)

These two views are almost the same place. This is West Bray. West Bray is a reservoir, an artificial lake where water is stored. You can see that there are no rice plants in the dry season.

This is Kampong poy. Kampong poy is a large water storage dam. This woman is the driver of the boat, and this boy has been taking lotus flowers from the dam reservoir.

These are two views of a floating village.

This is the Tonle Sap river.

This is a building on the other side of the Mekong River. This river flows backward into the lake in the rainy season, so that the area of the lake is about four times as large as in the dry season.

These pictures give you an idea of the rainy season and the dry season in Cambodia.

Thank you.