Intercultural Communication and Cooperative Learning

A seminar course for MA students
Lesson 5: Observations and interviews

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Week 6: Observations and interviews (1)

Preview of the session:

- Resource presentations (students 3 and 4)
- Activity 1 Learning to observe lessons
- Activity 2 How to conduct and report interviews
Week 6: Observations and interviews (2)

Resource presentations (2x5 min plus Q and A):

1. While you listen to your peer’s presentation of a practice-oriented printed or online resource, note down what ICC and/or CL lesson you think the resource could be used for.

2. After each presentation, ask the presenter any questions for clarification.
Week 6: Observations and interviews (3)

Activity 1 Learning to observe lessons (1)

1. Let’s stay silent for a minute and observe carefully everything in our classroom.
2. Individually write down the five most interesting things you observed.
3. Compare your observations with a partner. Did you note down the same things? Can you explain why you noticed the things you wrote down? What do you think the focus of your observations was influenced by?
Week 6: Observations and interviews (4)

Activity 1 Learning to observe lessons (2)

4. Walk around, mingle and try to talk to 3 more peers to compare observations the same way.
5. How many observations do you have in common with the peers you had time to talk to?
6. Did anyone notice that I was fiddling with my pen because I was becoming concerned about running out of time?
7. Share with the whole group the lessons we can draw from this activity.
Week 6: Observations and interviews (5)

Activity 1 Learning to observe lessons (3)

8. When you visit a class to observe a lesson, what would you like to focus on within the fields of ICC and/or CL?

9. What is it that you absolutely want to pay attention to? The teacher or the students? Verbal or non-verbal communication? The use of printed or online materials? The physical environment?

10. Will you have a list of things you want to observe? Write down your initial ideas individually.
Week 6: Observations and interviews (6)

Activity 1 Learning to observe lessons (4)

11. How will you record your observations? Putting checkmarks in a chart? Free writing about your impressions? Drawing and taking notes?

12. Which method will be most helpful for you and your research question? Think of all the advantages and disadvantages of each and discuss with your partner.
Week 6: Observations and interviews (7)

Activity 2 How to conduct and report interviews (1)

1. Think of something you have always wanted to find out about your group mates’ teaching experience or views about teaching.
2. Formulate 2 or 3 questions that will help you find this out.
3. Form pairs and interview each other. Take notes when your partner answers your questions.
4. Individually think back to your original question and see if your mini-interview questions helped to elicit enough information to find the answer.
Week 6: Observations and interviews (8)

Activity 2 How to conduct and report interviews (2)

Discuss with your partner what you think the following mean in the context of interviews:

– Codes of practice
– Protocols
– Confidentiality
– Anonymity
– Informed consent
Week 6: Observations and interviews (9)

Activity 2 How to conduct and report interviews (3)

The management of data
– Reading and referencing
– Note-taking and audio- or video-recording
– Storing and organizing data electronically
– Transcripts
Week 6: Observations and interviews (10)

Activity 2 How to conduct and report interviews (4)

Planning and conducting the interview:
- How to introduce your topic
- How to create the right atmosphere
- How to word and how not to word questions
- How to use an interview guide
- How to stay flexible
Week 6: Observations and interviews (11)

Activity 2 How to conduct and report interviews (5)

Interpreting and reporting the findings:

– Separating data, interpretation and evaluation
– Looking for emerging categories in the data
– Analyzing interview data
– Structuring the report
– Revision
Week 6: Observations and interviews (12)

Question and answer session:

1. Individually think for a minute and put any question or concern in connection with lesson observation and interviewing on a post-it and stick it on the board.
2. Let’s group your questions and see if they overlap.
3. Can you answer some of your peers’ concerns?
4. Do you know where to look things up if you are uncertain about research methodology?
Week 6: Observations and interviews (13)

Suggested reading on observations and interviewing:

Week 6: Observations and interviews (14)

Assignment for week 7

Draft your observation criteria or checklist and/or your interview guide. Bring them with you on paper.

Bring along an EFL coursebook that you are familiar with either as a learner or as a teacher.