

Workshop

Sep. 1st (Sat.) 13:30-15:00 H203

Sound kernels for EFL activities: the pedagogic use of talk radio extracts

Rebuck, Mark (Nagoya University)

Authentic listening exposes students to features of spoken English rarely included in the simplified language of textbooks. Moreover, by making them feel closer to the community of speakers that actually use the language, authentic audio can be highly motivational to learners. Despite these and other potential benefits of authentic audio, and despite the relative ease with which it can now be obtained from the Internet, it is still a greatly under-utilized resource. Of course, many teachers do incorporate into their lessons movie or news clips, but there are few reports in the literature of recordings with natural (i.e. unscripted) speech being used. In this workshop, participants will be presented with several short extracts from talk radio, such as a BBC phone-in programme, featuring the spontaneous speech of native speakers. Participants will first discuss the pedagogic potential of each extract. They will be encouraged, for example, to consider effective pre- and post-listening tasks and the language features in the audio text that could be foregrounded for the students. The presenter will then demonstrate how he integrated the extracts into his lessons. Subscribing to the view that audio is best seen as a medium for students to acquire new language, and not merely as a way to test listening “comprehension,” the presenter will discuss how authentic extracts can serve as a springboard for various practice and production activities such as shadowing, dictation, and “extension dialogues.” From this workshop participants should gain, firstly, a deeper appreciation of the sheer range of media genres that can yield pedagogically valuable audio and, secondly, new insights into creating stimulating lessons and activities around authentic audio clips. The presentation will finish by covering the practicalities of recording and editing extracts of Internet radio.

Mark Rebuck taught English in London, the city of his birth, and Korea before moving to Japan. He is currently an assistant professor in GSID, Nagoya University, where he teaches academic writing. His research focus includes spoken grammar, and he enjoys “monitoring” BBC Radio 4 for interesting audio.