

ERC Newsletter

July, 2015

This is our FIRST newsletter written mostly by Chikudai students!! We hope you like its casual style. From now on, we are going to advertise about ERC and English from many points of views. First of all, ERC is a place where many English books are stocked, and we are happy to have all students, staff, and faculty visit this room. In this newsletter, we will have several topics to read about the ERC and about Chikudai students. Please enjoy.

STUDENT INTERVIEW

Today, we will introduce 3rd grade Chikudai student, Taishi Tosa. He has read a lot of books in ERC and we will find out how he learned and improved his English. Now, let's check it out.



Q1: Tell us about your reading experience in English and Japanese before you came to Chikudai.

I had my first English class in elementary school. I might be in 4th grade then. I learned some easy English words and greetings using flash cards. In junior high school, I had English classes from the first year. My teacher usually taught us normal style but sometimes didn't. She brought CD and let us listen to it ("Apologize" "Spanish Lullaby" "Stand by Me"). And that made me be crazy about English. I began to listen to English songs. My mother told me "You should listen to the Carpenters because it's easy for us to understand her English." That

was true. I watched "HAPPY FEET (Animation movie)" in both English and Japanese with English subtitles again and again. I checked those unknown words with my paper dictionary and tried to memorize them. I loved English.

In high school, I still loved English. Just then, my school "Asahikawa kita (north) high school" had started "all English class". We spoke only English in the class. This was a very special experience to me, and it was very interesting.

Q2: Why did you choose the Reading Skills course? And, what did you know about it before you joined?

I was told that every year we had the selections to take the foreign language classes in the entrance guidance. At the very first day of my campus life. I thought that “I see, we should take as much those classes and as early as I can.” So I chose it. I had no idea about the class before I joined.

Q3: How many books did you read for class?

I read 15 books during the class.
(200,237words)

Q4: The target was 200,000 words. What did you think about that when you started, when you were halfway through the course, and when the course was finished?

At first, I didn't know how far the number 200,000 was. So I started to read early in the course and kept it constantly.

At halfway, I felt that the number was hard indeed, but thanks to Mr. Hill's advice, it wasn't tough so much for me.

At the end, I thought that reading stories in English was very interesting. It was not same that I read it in Japanese. I don't know what made it so exactly but I'm sure there were some differences. Maybe the order, speed, and tempo of information from English sentences were different from Japanese ones, I guess. (In English sentence, verb comes right after the subject, but in Japanese, verb comes in the end of the sentence.) Also, I

enjoyed reading books in English without using any dictionaries.

Q5: Did you read anything different in English than you usually did in Japanese? Why?

Yes, I did. There were many, many books in ERC and also many genres. It made me to do so. (In addition, I hadn't read much books through in Japanese.)

Q6: How much do you continue to read in English after the course is finished?

I read 3 books after the course has finished. I wanted to read books. Writing this, I'm feeling my English skills are getting weaker. I'm afraid of this.

Q7: What advice would you give to any students in Reading Skills course – for doing the reading or just for their attitude?

Read constantly. I read two or three books (at first) a week. Reading big word number is good but it takes time. In case of missing the quizzes, I recommend you to read small word number books constantly. This will help you in the end of the course. I'm sure this is not your final English task. Your English will last. Reading English constantly will help you. You can read, understand, and think faster in English. Book quiz system is really for you. You have to use it positively, I think.

ABOUT TRAVELOGUE

ERC has many events that anybody can enjoy. In addition to English lunch, we also have an event called “Travelogue”. Travelogue is a presentation held by Chikudai teachers or students who have gone to overseas recently. This event is held on Thursday at lunch time. Don’t miss it!!

Some of our student Travelogue speakers gave presentations about the U.S. (California and Madison, Wisconsin), Russia, Italy, India, the Philippines, Hungary, England, Turkey, Peru, Cambodia, and many more places. If you travel outside Japan, think about showing your pictures and talking about them in the ERC Travelogue.

ABOUT ENGLISH LUNCH

English lunch is an event we have on every Wednesday at ERC. What we do is talking with people by using English only. You can use gestures, and little Japanese. Anybody can join this! You only need a lunch to eat, and feeling to talk in English. Don’t be shy, and be brave! We are waiting for you to join us.

In April, Hokkaido Shinbun news reporter visited our “English Lunch”. He wrote the story (in Japanese) for that newspaper.