

A Life Story of a Language Learner from Kaohsiung
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Subject selection

My Subject, Amy Lee, was selected because of having experiences learning multiple languages, studying abroad, traveling, and teaching which solidly fits into the purpose of my research—writing the life story of someone who has learned and used a second language. Since the interviewee and I have the same background of learning experience and I believe that she can provide plenty of details regarding her learning experience to promote a deeper of understanding of a Taiwanese student's learning background.

Data collection

Interview is the primary method for collecting data. I conducted three interviews to collect data. In order to write the content accurately, I notify the interviewee that I will record interviews, transcribe the interviews, and write the story. In the first interview, basically, the questions I asked mainly focused on personal information, learning experiences including L2 and L3 learning. Second time, I aimed at profiling the respondent's education as well and more details relate to family, music, traveling and teaching experiences. The third time, I asked some follow-up questions to get more detailed information.

Research methodology

This is qualitative methodology to let my subject discover herself in her life story, and to

make sense of her life and experiences. Generally, I employ deductive logic, moving from general questions to the specific questions to connect the relationship between subject and content. Without assumptions, the researcher believes and respects all resources from interviewee. The life story is based on all resources I collected. The study also concerned about the consequences of human subject study so the setting was chosen by interviewee where she felt comfortable. Before the first time interview, I invited her for dinner few times in order to build the connection between my research and interviewee. I explained the purpose of this research was to collaborate with her to write the story so I could move by her willingness to share her life story with me.

Transcription

The Computer, MP3, Express Dictate free software are major tools used to record and transcribe the interview. Express Dictate free software is useful and free because I can slow down the speed and type at the same time. The transcription is to capture the words that participants are saying not focusing on transcribing intonation, simultaneous talk or pauses.

Outcome

Through three interviews, I collect enough data for writing a life story but due to the problem of second language proficiency, it is hard to express meaning well and have a deeper discussion. Overall, in order to accomplish this project, I have to use some strategies such as generating questions related to data I need or giving comment to sand her side, and

summarizing the content mentioned before. After I finished project, I feel that I have watched a good movie and read a wonderful story- a life story.