

Specialized TESOL Methodology: Conversation strategies and communicative competence (ELECT / 1cr.)

Instructor: Dr Chris Jones

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Course Dates

10/10/26 (Sat. 16:00-20:00)	10/17/26 (Sat. 16:00-20:00)	10/24/26 (Sat. 16:00-20:00)
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Course Description

The course has the following aims:

1. To review spoken corpus linguistics research and what this tells us about spoken language in conversations
2. To examine the idea of conversation strategies as a means of helping learners to develop conversational skills
3. To provide an opportunity for the participants in the seminar to design and evaluate their own lesson procedure using conversation strategies in their own context.

Course Schedule

Session	Issues/Topics	Assigned Readings
1.	• <i>How are conversations different to written language?</i> • <i>What can spoken corpora tell us about conversational language and discourse?</i> • <i>What do we mean by communicative competence?</i>	McCarthy & Carter (1995) Pre-course reading: Jones, C. (2021). Chapters 1 and 2
2.	• <i>What are conversation strategies?</i> • <i>How can we apply conversation strategies to methodology, materials/class/activity design?</i> • <i>Evaluating materials and activities</i>	Jones, C. (2021). Chapters 3 and 4
3.	• <i>How can we adapt the use of conversation strategies to our own context?</i> • <i>Evaluating our own pedagogy</i>	Jones, C. (2021). Chapters 5 and 6

Pre-course Reading

McCarthy, M., & Carter, R. (1995). Spoken grammar: what is it and how can we teach it? *ELT Journal*, 49 (3), 207–218, <https://doi.org/10.1093/elt/49.3.207>

Note: This will be supplied by the instructor in Google classroom

Required Textbook

Jones, C. (2021). *Conversation strategies and communicative competence*. Candlin and Mynard.

Suggested Reading

McCarthy, M., & McCarten, J. Now you're talking! Practising conversation in second language learning. In C.Jones (Ed.), *Practice in second language learning* (pp. 7-19). Cambridge University Press.

Note: this will be supplied by the instructor in the Google classroom

Additional reading

Jones, C, Byrne, S., & Halenko, N. (2018). *Successful spoken English: Findings from learner corpora*. Routledge.

Jones, C., & Waller, D. (2015). *Corpus linguistics for grammar: A guide for research*. Routledge.

Useful spoken corpora

VOICE <https://voice.acdh.oeaw.ac.at/>

ICNALE online <http://language.sakura.ne.jp/onlinecorpus.html> *

Spoken BNC2014 <https://cqpweb.lancs.ac.uk/> *
Free to access but sign up normally required

Assessment

The following assignment will be graded as Pass or Fail.

Design ONE lesson procedure using conversation strategies for a group of students you are currently teaching, have taught in the past or envision teaching in the future and write a rationale for the procedure design and implementation.

In your written paper include:

- A brief introduction giving the rationale for the use of conversation strategies
- A description of the instructional setting the lesson procedure is designed for
- A description of the procedure (you should include this as an appendix to your paper)
- A rationale for the procedure including how you chose the strategies and chosen to design the lesson and implement your ideas including how you chose to use the materials (you will need to make reference to relevant literature)
- A conclusion in which you explain how you would evaluate the effectiveness of the class

Wordcount: 1,500 words

Use APA 7th referencing and Times New Roman font size 12 double-spaced.

Evaluation

Pass/Fail