

Creating comprehensive Mandarin training model for Taiwanese industry: An anticipation of Taiwan 'Southbound policy

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Abstract. The study discusses the effort of preparing human resources in mastering Mandarin for Taiwan industry as the anticipation of Southbound policy created by Taiwan government. In this point, the Southbound policy represents Taiwan's government strategy in 2016-2020 which encourages multilateral and bilateral cooperation with ASEAN and South Asian countries. One of the most important elements in the program centers as the Internship Scholarship Program in Taiwan. Utilizing qualitative research methods, researchers collected secondary data from various available official resources. The publications, documents, books, and websites contain the policy and mechanism of the internship scholarship program. On the other hand, this study conducted interviews with senior high school and vocational high school stakeholders to create synergy in the program. This study offers a model of cooperation between junior high school/vocational school and the candidates of the employer in the Taiwan industry. The contribution of this research is to create a comprehensive cooperative model that includes preparing human resources before leaving for Taiwan, providing teachers and supplying training materials that are relevant to the needs of industry players in Taiwan eventually.

Keywords: southbound policy, internship, industry, Mandarin training model

1. Introduction

The New Southbound Policy is a crucial part of Taiwan government strategy in 2016-2020. Taiwan responds to every alteration in the global context and particularly the trend toward regional integration by adapting itself as an important member of the Asia and Asia Pacific region. For this reason, Taiwan pays especially close attention to soft power as a core aspect of its strategy to link up with other countries. At some extent, Taiwan prepares to share its diverse experiences in many areas such as health care, education, technology, agricultural cooperation, and small and medium enterprises to strengthen cooperation with ASEAN and South Asian countries. From this inception, the Industry-University Internship Scholarship

Program serves one of New Southbound Policy work items. Importantly, the program is managed and partially funded by Taiwan Ministry of Education. Coupled with technology universities, it cooperates with companies to design practical curriculums based on companies' needs, and the companies provide internship positions for students from ASEAN and South Asia. Doubtless, the



spirit of the program purposes for assisting economically disadvantaged students. Therefore, they would have opportunities to pursue their bachelor degrees and become skillful interns for the companies.

The structure of the program comprises of three major parties in this program, Taiwan technology universities, Taiwan companies, and Indonesian students. Figure 1 depicts the program structure of internship. Following this, each stakeholder may encounter the problems. For example, the companies set various requirements for internship positions. In this sense, they may not have comprehensive information about Indonesian, including the culture, religion, language, and customs. It is not easy for the company to provide their specific requirements. Following that, the universities should communicate with different companies to provide appropriate internship students. They have to match the students and internship positions. Not surprisingly, they have to collect information from industry and also the international students. On the other hand, the students are unfamiliar with Taiwan, including language, society, or culture. Arguably, they don't have knowledge about the company. For this reason, it provides an adventure opportunity to go overseas studying and to reside there for four years.



Figure 1. Structure of Industry-University internship scholarship program.

Prior to students' departure to Taiwan, the program should provide language and working training. It aims to prepare the students with practical aspects and to build confidence for the students. That said, the university and company cooperate with each other to enhance the basic skill of Mandarin and working training. Undoubtedly, the comprehensive training model will increase the success of implementation of this program, especially for ASEAN students. At a closer look, Indonesia became the top priority because the country itself became a platform to solve conflicts in Asia Pacific and the biggest actor in the region. At the same time, it also connects regional organizations in Asia Pacific [2].

2. Methods

The research applied qualitative approach by conducting interviews to three stakeholders concerning the needs of human resources that Indonesian needs to work in the Taiwanese Industries. The time frame of interviews included face to face meeting during the three stakeholders' visit to Jakarta on February to July 2017. The population of the study consists of 200 Senior High School (SMA) and Vocational High School (SMK) students from March to June 2017 in Bangka, Belitung, Cirebon, and Bandung City by undertaking face to face interviews.

3. Results and Discussions

3.1. Language for specific purpose

Language for Specific Purpose (LSP) is a leading practical method in the field of language training and instruction that focuses on the immediate and specific needs of learners who need language as a medium in education, training, and the world of work [3]. It convinced that LSP has a unique relationship with applied linguistics. In this point, the closest relation is related to discourse analysis

and pragmatist analysis. From another angle, scholars argue that LSP was practiced a lot in discourse analysis. In this respect, there is a relation between teaching language assessment and communicative language. It reveals that LSP has not built a profession to the maximum or a clear sub-discipline in the world of language. [4]. In addition, LSP, as an integrated component of existing curriculum, should be able to complete the student ability to adapt and applies their education to changing demands from the global society recently. This reflects that LSP is a platform that provides special skills [5]. In this spectrum, LSP courses focus on students to help them find and practice the kind of language that meets their special professional needs. Traditionally, LSP's students are mostly college student and adults [6]. In this token, teaching in LSP aims to work beyond the principle. Besides, the needs and expectations of the students are in accordance with the methods and forms of teaching, both in the professional and non-professional sector. On that basis, the prominent consideration in LSP's teaching method is to acknowledge who the students are, what the learning styles are, and the student's age. In sum, all these factors decide the approach of teaching and preparation for future foreign language through courses or particular module in the curriculum [7].

3.2. Mobile learning

With the modernization of communication tools, education experts had tried to take the initiative to apply the usage of the tools in teaching and learning. Over the years, mobile learning states that mobile tools enable the student to share information and synchronize their assignments in a wider range and functions more impressively in a situation that requires the cooperation of experts. (Chien, 1997; Coil, 1998; Sharples, 2000a; Sharples et al., 2000b). [8], [9], [10], [11]

Several perspectives had been stated regarding the definition of the Mobile Learning. In consonance with earlier viewpoints, mobile learning (m-Learning) is an approach to teaching and learning that is recognized as a process of learning through the computer. In this case, the content of the teaching is based on the network and its learning network or technology based curriculum (Anderson, 2002; Milrad, 2002) [12] [13].

In interesting research by Lehner, Nosekabel and Lehman (2001), they argues that m-Learning is an ability to attain process of teaching and learning in an unlimited time, specific place, and with any tools. They convince that there are two advantages of m-Learning, which is "anytime, anywhere learning and teaching while doing". Furthermore, Lehner et al stated that the definition of m-Learning includes every learning process that is related to mobile tools or any building that contains wireless infrastructure [14].

Coil (1998) stated that with m-Learning, it enables the students to study college courses from a distance, to access assignments wherever and whenever, to cooperate with other students in corresponding time, to contact the teacher, and to access research materials in a larger quantity compared to a library [15]. That definition shows that m-Learning is a form of learning that includes the usage of technology in a building with wireless infrastructure.

Based on the result of the interviews, data showed that the enthusiasm of Senior High School (SMA) and Vocational High School (SMK) students is significant towards the internship scholarship in Taiwan. The occurring issues among students urge for the mastery of Chinese language before the departure to Taiwan for the internship. Considering the time constraint in learning Mandarin, the students and education providers request to create an m-Learning method. In this context, the provided materials in the online learning are expected to be interactive. Moreover, it teaches the basics of communications in a context. Therefore, a model of MALL learning for special needs (Language for Specific Purpose) of senior high and vocational school students that will be departing for an internship. Based on field data obtained, an interactive Chinese language training model proposes an interactive and comprehensive Chinese training model. It evinces that the learning model accommodates the needs of the students. A student can study independently without direct face to face interaction with the teacher. Other than that, online video is a form of assignment by doing the activities provided. In this training model, the range of language teaching poses a major aspect. In conjunction with this, the internship included should consider two major parts. The first part is based on the students' point of view and the other part derives from the industry side. The students have to

prepare fundamental conversation, work language, and Chinese culture attachment. For the companies, they need the internship have basic knowledge of workplace and industry specific requirements. Subsequent to interviewing stakeholders of the schools in Indonesia and the companies in Taiwan, the content of internship program includes daily and professional Mandarin. Each of the items consists of several subjects. The internship prepared the students prior to leaving for Taiwan. It takes about 1-3 months while they are waiting for the passport and student visa application. Figure 2 depicted the structure of internship:

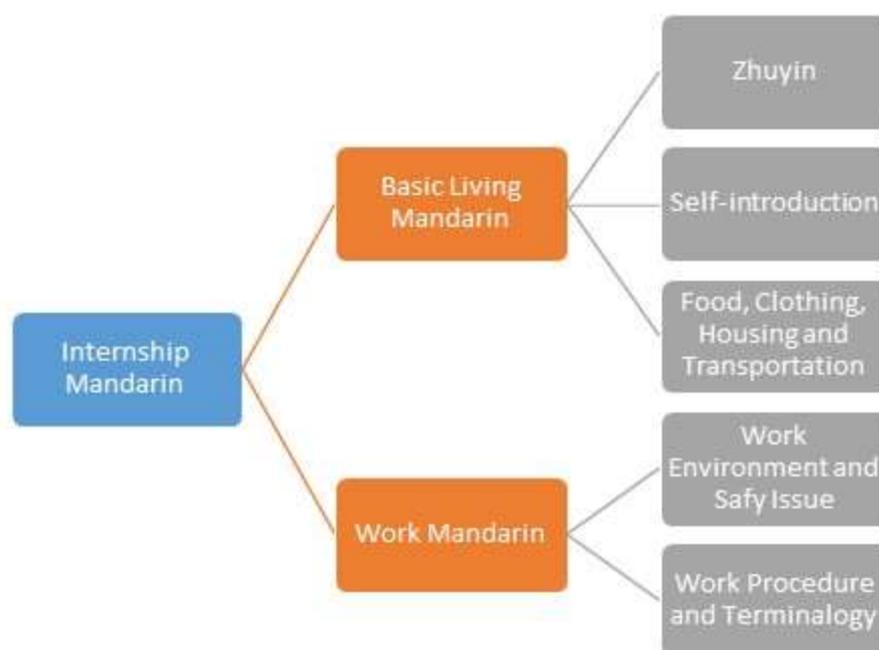


Figure 2. The structure of internship.

3.3. Teaching Pinyin and Zhuyin

Different from Mainland China, Taiwan education has been using other Phonetic Symbols to teach students how to pronounce Chinese characters. In this respect, the system name is Mandarin Phonetic Symbols or Zhuyin. Moreover, people can see alphabetic Pinyin when they are walking on the streets in Taiwan cities. Not surprisingly, the name of the streets uses both Chinese characters and Pinyin words. Those Pinyin words are mainly for foreign travellers. However, Zhuyin is popular in Taiwan. It is also widely used as a Chinese character entry tool for electronic input methods.

3.4. Utilizing modern computer technology to help Zhuyin learning

Facilitating Zhuyin education, our future research will provide open advanced teaching software applications. Compared them with traditional classroom teaching, software applications are more fun to learn with various types of contents such as sound, music, pictures, animation, and combination of multimedia.

In this case, it enables students to watch and learn all by themselves independently. This suggests that the main duties of teachers will change from traditional classroom teaching to introducing the learning steps, assigning homework, checking homework progress/result, and evaluating learning score through

3.5. Adopting Online to Offline (O2O) concepts for better teaching service

The money and time spent on learning are getting escalating. We should adopt Online to Offline (O2O) concepts for better teaching service to help improving the quality of teaching and to reduce the

traveling cost at the same time. There are various applied types of online systems or services in accordance with their different functions and features. The researchers delved in in depth as follows:

3.6. Online learning platform

Initially, we introduced the Student Self-learning Platform. Students may start their self-learning by following the steps required or teachers' guideline. In this point, it allows the students to accomplish the process effortlessly, notably the platform registration. Following this, the system administrator needs to key in the required primary data for the related student such as login name, password, learning period, and available courses.

On teachers' side, the preparation plays an important role initially. We need to prepare contents and structures. There are three levels from top to down, courses, chapters, and units. Figure 3 showed the ZhuYin course level. The Lesson 1 ㄅ ㄆ ㄇ ㄏ is the part of the second level together with the chapter.

The bottom level represents the unit level. As students click on it, a tutorial video will start to play. Regarding the slow internet connection in student local environment, the system provides a user-friendly orange email button to submit the concern. The system will dispatch an email with the attached video to the predefined email box at the same time.



Figure 3. Three levels structure of courses, chapters and units.

3.7. Using social media to deliver homework assignment

This application emphasizes the importance of accomplishing the homework assignment. With this in mind, social media is very good at sending a various type of media. In this point of entry, speaking, spelling, typing, and handwriting denote four required major skills in order to communicate with the companies. Undoubtedly, Mandarin teachers should ask their students to learn all these four skills. For speaking and spelling parts, the homework requires students to record their voice clips in digital audio files. Those audio files can optimize the process of learning eventually.

4. Conclusions

This application falls under the novelty of implementation. It provides the companies more opportunities in building connections and networking within ASEAN and South Asia countries. In this point of entry, internship students provide the workforces about knowledge of Indonesia, and the networking for the companies. That would assist the companies to evaluate prospectus investment. Moreover, when the company decides to expand their business to Indonesia and at the same time the students return to Indonesia, they naturally acquire the opportunity in the company as employees with basic tier. Our Internship Comprehensive Mandarin Training model provided Internship Mandarin content and O2O interact approach to preparing the students' internship prior to their departure to Taiwan. Doubtless, it would reduce the difficulty of the students efficiently. Consequently, it considers both senior high or vocational schools stakeholders in Indonesia and companies to join the program.

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