October 2022 - February 2023

MA ELT QUICK FIRE PRESENTATION EVENT 2022 AT UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK: A REFLECTIVE REPORT

By: Alyssa Batrisyia Zainal Abidin

The Masters of Arts (MA) English Language Teaching (ELT) Quick Fire Event Presentation is held annually by the Applied Linguistics Department at the University of Warwick, with support from the International Association of Teachers of English (IATEFL) Research Special Interest Group (Research SIG). The event aims to create a space for MA students from UK universities to share the preliminary findings of their dissertations with others. At last year's event in August, each presenter delivered a quick 5-minute presentation about their dissertation, followed by 5 minutes of breakout discussion and 10 minutes of Q and A.

At that time, I was doing my MA TESOL Pre-Service at University College London and joined the event as an observer whilst supporting my peers in participating in the event. The event had a diverse range of ELT topics from investigating argumentative tasks such as debates on L2 speech production and aptitude (Mari Ito from University College London) to exploring Foreign Language Anxiety (FLA) amongst adult migrants (refugees, asylum seekers, and forced migrants) in an ESOL/EFL class in Scotland (Mathilde Smith from the University of Strathclyde).

There were also a couple of interesting studies on the impact of the recent pandemic on ELT. Seido Iga from University College London presented the impact of face mask wearing on second language learners' emotions and comprehensibility in Japan. Juana Simpson from Queens University Belfast also presented on teachers' perceptions of the online pivot in the context of Northern Ireland in a post-pandemic era. Wirdatul Aini from the University of Nottingham was the last presenter who focused on Indonesian ESL novice teachers' motivations while pursuing TESOL Studies in the UK that highlighted the importance of self-motivation and goal-setting. The final presentation served as a smooth lead-in to our reflection session. The reflection session between presenters and attendees like myself, was truly intimate because most of us came from various countries to study TESOL or applied linguistics in the UK. The majority of us are still in the early stages of our research careers, making it challenging to navigate the diverse subject of ELT. However, as a result of this event, we now have a deeper comprehension of a variety of related subjects.

In addition, attending the event also gave me a deep sense of motivation to keep working on my report progress as I was still finalizing my paper on Malaysian secondary school students' perception of global English

textbooks such as PULSE. Networking with other TESOL peers from other universities during the event helped me feel inspired and connected as we came from similar backgrounds in teaching ESOL/EFL and gave me the chance to consider what areas of professions I might like to explore further and I am thankful to have discovered my passion for teaching at UiTM. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my friends at the University of Warwick and the IATEFL for their tireless efforts in planning the 2022 MA ELT Quickfire Event. It would be an incredible opportunity for APB UiTM Kampus Rembau to participate in their forthcoming event and leave inspired, just as it inspired me.

Note: I have also co-written a similar reflective report with a fellow university colleague, Le Phuong Mai Pham who took her MA in Applied Linguistics at University College London and it will be published under IATEFL's Issue 38 of ELT Research in mid-2023.

Caption: Presenters and attendees of MA ELT Quickfire Event 2022 at University of Warwick, UK

Caption: Ema Ushioda who focuses on language learning motivation and had worked closely with the late Zoltán Dörnyei on teaching and researching motivation was also present during the MA ELT Quickfire Event 2022