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✓ <u>Chief Editor's Desk</u>	<u>2</u>
✓ <u>News & Reports</u>	<u>7</u>
✓ <u>Language Club News & Reports</u>	<u>16</u>
✓ <u>Image & Lifestyle</u>	<u>44</u>
✓ <u>Pet Lovers' Central</u>	<u>70</u>
✓ <u>Lecturer's Contribution</u>	<u>93</u>
✓ <u>Creative Corner</u>	<u>119</u>
✓ <u>The Team</u>	<u>131</u>



A hand is shown holding a single white, smooth stone above a stack of seven similar white stones. The stones are resting on a beach of small, multi-colored pebbles. The background is a soft-focus view of the ocean and sky.

Lecturer's contribution

Inspiring Language Learning [94](#)

One night at the Caribbean Campsite [96](#)

Tourist Attractions in Shanghai [99](#)

Food in Shanghai [102](#)

Cheongsam in Shanghai [105](#)

Let's Kecek! [107](#)

Steady, Auntie! [111](#)

Budaya Minum Teh di Turki [115](#)



Inspiring Language Learning: A German Nurse's Journey to Overcoming Barriers

By Nur Ilianis Adnan

The initiative of having collaborative teaching every semester is a great effort by our institute to encourage collaboration. I typically use this golden opportunity to invite industry professionals, specifically non-Malaysians, to introduce my students to the outside world and broaden their perspectives through interaction with these guests.

Last semester, I invited a native English speaker from the US to share with my pre-diploma students in the course ELC030. This semester, I decided to take a different approach. Instead of inviting a native speaker, I invited a non-native English speaker to share her experience learning English. This way, the students can relate to her struggles and realize they are not alone.

Annette Evanschitsky, a German citizen working as an ICU nurse in Germany, was the perfect choice. When I first met Annette two years ago, she shared her struggles with learning English, as she tends to switch to German and use direct translations. I thought, "Wow, she is the perfect person to share her experience with my diploma students."

From the beginning, Annette mentioned that she would not be able to share any tips because she still faces difficulties in learning languages. I reassured her that simply sharing her experience would be valuable for my students, helping them understand that even foreigners, including "white people," also struggle with learning English.

On 21st May 2024, I invited Annette to my LCC111 class where she gave a 30-minute presentation. She introduced her background and discussed the language barriers she encountered when she first arrived in Malaysia. Another inspiring point Annette shared was her motivation to learn the Malay language. Through this, I hope my students feel motivated, determined, and resilient in their own language learning journey despite the challenges they may face.

