Why Chinese Universities Do Not Provide an English Posted by Malsol - 2008/03/12 20:15 _____________________________________ Why Chinese Universities Do Not Provide an English Speaking Environment THE PROBLEM Speak with any Chinese university Foreign Language Department administrator and they will extol the virtues of creating an Engl First and foremost, Chinese university administrators do not have a clear and proper understanding of what constitutes an ESE. W There are two required elements to a proper ESE. A proper ESE is one where the students are inundated with comprehensible E Far too many Chinese Foreign Language Department administrators are under the false impression that an ESE is simply where The administrators do not require the English majors to speak to them in English nor do they respond to them in English. There i The administrators set a very bad example for the students. When the Party Secretary assigned to the Foreign Language Department cannot speak or understand any English, all departmen The joint venture universities set up by foreign universities, in partnership with Chinese universities, are not exempt from this critic The Chinese administrators who profess the need for creation of an ESE are often the primary impediment to its creation. Thirty-eight out of forty Chinese university English teachers, who are supposed to teach in English, are incapable due to their own English majors ask their Chinese English teachers questions in Chinese and are answered in Chinese, both in the classroom and The classrooms are littered with Chinese proverbs and political propaganda, all in Putonghua. One oral English classroom had tw â€œDo not speak in this classroomâ€• and â€œIf you must speak, speak in Chinese.â€• This was in an Oral English classroom w The Oral English classrooms have theater style row seating bolted to the concrete floor and students are thus compelled to spea Modern five story libraries at universities with a 10% or higher English major population have absolutely no English books, or the The multi-media libraries offer English movies with Chinese subtitles. The computer labs and sound labs are programmed in Chinese rather than English. The lab support staffs and computer teachers do not speak English. The campuses have no bi-lingual signage Even the sign welcoming the new freshmen English majors is all in Putonghua and the There is no English speaking staff in the canteen, post office, logistics department, dormitories, or any other service office of whic There is no extra-curricular access to English newspapers, TV or films. In short, there isnâ€™t even a token attempt to create a proper ESE within the pervasive native Chinese environment. EXCUSES When foreign teachers complain about the lack of an ESE or make constructive suggestions for the creation of an ESE, they are This is China. It is my habit to speak in Chinese. You will be gone in one year or less. Laughter == Re:Why Chinese Universities Do Not Provide an English Posted by Malsol - 2008/03/12 20:16 _____________________________________ SOLUTIONS: The first step to creating a proper ESE on Chinese university campuses is to provide continuing education in 2nd language acqui Second, it is imperative that all Foreign Language Department administrators and staffs be required to participate in continuing E Third, there must be an incentive or punishment scheme so that administrators and staffs make an honest effort to understand 2n Fourth, schools must transform their Foreign Language Departments into little English enclaves, or at least bi-lingual ones. Classrooms must be English friendly and configured to facilitate oral communication. All Chinese signage should be replaced with Fifth, English competency must become an employment prerequisite for all English teachers. Sixth, libraries must provide a diversified selection of English reading materials and English movies with English subtitles. Without a fundamental attitude adjustment, the concept of creating an ESE is just an impossible dream. == Re:Why Chinese Universities Do Not Provide an English Posted by Malsol - 2008/03/12 20:17 _____________________________________ The Second Language Acquisition Process in Immersion Contexts: Theory and Research, Smith, Samuel, Texas Papers in Foreign Language Education, v1 n2 p119-131 Fall 1988, 1988 Abstract: Research concerning the success factors in language immersion education is reviewed, focusing on five major schools Walking a Mile in Their Shoes: Transforming Teachers' Beliefs about English Language Learners, Grace Cho, Debra DeCastro-A â€œAccording to Krashen (1982), language is best acquired when the input is comprehensible (i.e., meaningful, interesting, little Creating Authentic Dialog: ESL Students as Recipients of Service Learning, Stephanie Marlow, Boise State University (Boise, Id One such administrator was bragging about how they will not answer any question from an English major unless asked in Englis Shanghai Normal University. â€œIf the students are allowed to use the English collecetion, the books will wear out quicker.â€• Shanghai Foreign Studies University, the second most important English teaching university in China. No Bi-lingual signage. "a teacher who gives up learning should also give up teaching." Review of Teacher Education in NSW, https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/teachrev/submiss/contedu.htm On Target: Teaching in the Target Language. Pathfinder 5. A CILT Series for Language Teachers, 1991, Abstract: The guide is designed to illustrate how it is realistic and possible to teach in a target foreign language, propose effective Applying the Comprehension Hypothesis: Some Suggestions, Stephen Krashen, Presented at 13th International Symposium and Book Fair on Language Teaching (English Teachers Association of the Republic â€œ The Comprehension Hypothesis also applies to literacy: Our reading ability, our ability to write in an acceptable writing style Free Voluntary reading: New Research, Applications, and Controversies, Stephen Krashen Presented at PAC5 (Pan-Asian Conference), Vladivostok, Russia, June 24, 2004, http://www.sdkrashen.com/articles/pac5/index.html â€œRecreational reading or reading for pleasure is the major source of our reading competence, our vocabulary, and our ability == Why Chinese Universities Do Not Provide an English Posted by clarrie - 2008/03/15 18:49 _____________________________________ Mmmmm, where do I start? ESE//!!! There does not have to be one for the students to 'succeed'/realise success in terms of the I've spoken to many different people at many different locations about creating ESEs, but they all came back with the same resp == Re:Why Chinese Universities Do Not Provide an English Posted by dickeybird - 2008/03/16 01:00 _____________________________________ Malsol! You are 100% correct in everything you stated above! My sentiments exactly. Last year I experienced everything of whi Continuing teacher education, serious second language instruction methods, in-service trainings, requiring English on campus fo I have spoken to a few Americans who taught in public schools who said their experience was little more than the "token Western Libraries! Yes, at the university where I taught all English materials were in the faculty section. Students had to get permission to So, no wonder so many graduate university with minimal skills. == Re:Why Chinese Universities Do Not Provide an English Posted by Malsol - 2008/03/17 04:00 _____________________________________ clarrie wrote: Mmmmm, where do I start? ESE//!!! There does not have to be one for the students to 'succeed'/realise success in terms of the I've spoken to many different people at many different locations about creating ESEs, but they all came back with the same resp You are correct - an ESE is not required to learn English to pass the CET 4, CET 6 or TEM 4 exams. Unfortunately those exams have nothing to do with producing comprehensible English. == Re:Why Chinese Universities Do Not Provide an Engl Posted by jKs - 2008/03/17 08:06 _____________________________________ Word to all of the above. If Chinese Universities send Engineering Graduates out into the world with a faulty understanding of engineering, bridges might c == Re:Why Chinese Universities Do Not Provide an Engl Posted by Malsol - 2008/03/17 13:16 _____________________________________ jKs wrote: Word to all of the above. If Chinese Universities send Engineering Graduates out into the world with a faulty understanding of engineering, bridges might c A graduate was hired by an import/export company based upon her having passed CET 6. When business fell off 45% they aske I had to draft a series of form letters for her to use and their business rebounded and increased 23 % year on year. == Re:Why Chinese Universities Do Not Provide an Engl Posted by Heiney - 2008/03/17 14:45 _____________________________________ @Masol, As you mentioned before too many people are of the thought that "English is just a tool..." Unfortunately, those companies which require CET4 or CET6 scores don't give a rat's bottom if the employee can really speak En I know for a fact that when Mr. Heiney was applying for jobs, the people only asked for his CET scores and never even interviewe Further anecdotes: I actually met a university English teacher in Shenyang who confided in me that he had someone else take the CET8 (for English I've regularly met students who will say they feel some of their teachers are doing a disservice to other students because of such Native-English speaking teachers are often told by the administration to be more "diligent" in correcting the mistakes of students. The people who I have met who have the best grasp on the language are those who are self-taught. They are both intrinsically m Furthermore, the defeatist attitude many of the students have when you offer suggestions on how to improve their language skills Supposedly the native speakers are the "experts" (agreed that's debatable for a few people I've met), but if reasonable suggestio As defeatist as this sounds: You teach the ones who want to learn and hope the rest don't screw it up too much. == Re:Why Chinese Universities Do Not Provide an Engl Posted by Malsol - 2008/03/17 16:31 _____________________________________ I know a man who took CET 8 17 times and passed every time, under a different name. He charges 5,000 rmb.

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