

Effective Way to Teach Chinese as a Second Language (L2)

Qi Wang

The Chinese University of Hong Kong/ Hong Kong

ABSTRACT

Chinese has been regarded as one of the most difficult languages in the world, especially Speaking and writing Chinese characters have made many foreigners quit studying. How to help foreigners to learn this language easily? In decades, more researches focused on Chinese characters and patterns, but seldom to help foreign students to organize the knowledge they have learnt and the mind to express properly. Based on the theory of Tony Buzan's 'Mind Map', this research focused on the application of visual tools and computer technology to teach Chinese as L2. It includes two parts: a) Teacher: to design the colourful Mind Map on the language points of each lesson (situation/context, new words and patterns), starting from the centre (Topic), connected with the flow chart of the story. With it, the teacher is able to introduce all the knowledge without text book. b) Students: during the whole learning process, they will be guided by the teacher's introduction with the new knowledge linked judiciously while also taking more detailed notes on Mind Map. With it, they can review easily on it after class. Taught by Mind Map, students have learnt the organized knowledge, rather than pieces, which is helpful for them to memory the situation/story and organize the knowledge and express properly. After practised for a few years, Mind Map does work for Language teaching & learning.