



Curtin University

*8th International Conference on TESOL:
ELT IN THE 21ST CENTURY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES*

Date: Thursday, Aug 10, 2017

Time: 16:15-16:45

Presenter/s: Mr. TRAN Thanh Vu

Bio:

Mr. TRAN Thanh Vu is an English teacher at Phu Hoa High School, Ho Chi Minh City and is currently working as a visiting lecturer at Vien Dong College, teaching mainly English Teaching Methodology. He received his M.Ed. in TESOL from the University of Southern Queensland, Australia in 2015. In addition to his teaching, he has been providing workshops in teaching practice for teachers at various language centers in Cu Chi District, Ho Chi Minh City. His main interests are innovating English teaching techniques, applying them to real teaching experience and sharing them with his colleagues and student teachers.

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Title: **Authentic Materials in Teaching English: a Reconsideration of Existing Definitions**

Abstract:

The use of authentic materials in EFL has long been acknowledged to be advantageous to learners as they provide real-life experience in the language classroom. However, many of the existing definitions on which most teachers are utilizing to select appropriate teaching resources present a strong bias toward the notion of “native speakers’ production”. This paper calls for reconsideration of the definition of “authentic materials” by pointing out that the English language no longer belongs to the so-called “native speakers”, stating the fact that a growing number of non-native speakers are using it to communicate purposefully every day. It is argued that the language that those speaking English as their second or foreign language create can perfectly be employed as teaching materials in EFL/ESL classrooms because such language presents real communication among English language users in the 21st century whether they speak it as their mother tongue or not. By discussing those points, the paper goes on to recommend a theoretical framework on which more suitable criteria for choosing authentic materials can be built to conform with the teaching context of this century.