The Relations of Globalization, Student-Population Downsizing, and Digitalization to English Pedagogy

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ABSTRACT
This paper makes an attempt to take a close look at the imminent issue entangled by phenomena such as globalization, student-population downsizing, and habitual mobile-phone using, and how they pose a challenge to English teaching in Taiwan. A late 20th century phenomenon, globalization is a description of worldwide trends perceived to be dramatically and relentlessly increasing human contacts and communications around the world regardless of nationality and geography (Tobin, Seiler, & Smith, 1999). “Global village” thereby becomes not merely a terminology but a concrete and realized fact. However, to realize the benefit of globalization, first and foremost, is to have a common communication platform to be used globally (Phillipson, 1992; Kachru & Nelson, 1996; Seidlhofer, 2003). Apparently, digitalization inherent in computer and mobile phone is the most efficient way to either obtain information from or share opinions with other users in every corner of the world. It rather becomes a feet-swept-off-ground to the majority of people who use phone to such a degree that they are in the grip of convenience and information-hungry desire. The large amount of the phone users, nevertheless, does not equal to the student population; that is, the student population in Taiwan is on the decrease to a large measure as years unwind. In short, the student population is plummeting. It has become the major issue of high education in Taiwan because it renders a direct impact to the structure of school management together with the whole-set adjustments of software and hardware. To withstand the impact, every school emphasizes their pedagogical features, among which English Teaching is more focused upon customer-made curriculum to both hold students and attract students on and off campus. So it is a fact that English learning and teaching are still an on-the-go must because an objective statistics shows that the population of non-native-English-speaking countries which can co...

Keywords: globalization, student-population downsizing, digitalization, English pedagogy

REFERENCES