

NCTE Study Group Examines TESL Training Program

The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Pre-Convention Study Group in Teaching English as a Second Language met at The Church College of Hawaii and the Polynesian Cultural Center, November 22, 1967, to discuss and evaluate the curriculum of the college's new undergraduate program in TESL.

The Church College of Hawaii in Laie offers what is believed to be one of the first undergraduate degree programs in teaching English as a second language found in the United States. The school's enrollment includes many students from the South Pacific and Asia.

Third Day in Laie

Under the direction of Dr. Gerald Dykstra of the University of Hawaii Department of Speech, chairman of the study group, the three day session for over forty visiting linguists and teachers from the United States and abroad met for the first two days

at the University of Hawaii before traveling to Laie for the third day.

Following a bus ride from town which included an informal introduction to Hawaii, Laie, and The Church College of Hawaii by Dr. Wayne Allison, Chairman of the Language Arts Division of The Church College, the group was greeted and welcomed by President Owen J. Cook.

BATESL Program Presented

The BATESL program was presented by William D. Conway and Alice C. Pack of the English Language Institute. Following a short question and answer session, four basic subject areas were selected for discussion in smaller groups. "Methods of Teacher Training and the Use of Tutorials in BATESL program" was discussed in a group led by Dr. William F. Marquardt of the College of Education of the University of Illinois. Dr. Gerald Dykstra led a group discussing "Procedures for Evaluating the Success of a TESL Program."

"The Content of a TESL Methods Course" was discussed in a group led by Dr. Francis C. Johnson, Chairman of the English Department of the University of New Guinea. Richard Port of the Hawaii Curriculum Center led a discussion on the "Content of Three Core Courses in the BATESL Program."

Luncheon-Tours

Following reports of the findings of each discussion group, luncheon was served in the college faculty dining room. After brief side tours of the campus and the grounds of the Laie LDS Temple, the group re-assembled in the councilhouse of the Tongan Village in the Polynesian Cultural Center.

Located near the college, the Polynesian Cultural Center is a vast complex of authentic villages representing the cultures of Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, New Zealand, Hawaii, and Tahiti.

The aims, goals, objectives of a TESL program were discussed by

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Dr. Gerald Dykstra discusses aims, goals, objectives of TESL in an afternoon session of the NCTE Pre-Conven-

tion Study Group on TESL meeting in the Tongan Village of the Polynesian Cultural Center, Laie, Hawaii.

NCTE Group at CCH --

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Dr. Dykstra in the first afternoon session. He suggested that teachers often make far-reaching goals but sometimes fail to realize them for lack of continuing program evaluation.

Checking Immediate Goals

If a program is broken down into months, weeks, days, hours, and even minutes it is possible, suggested Dykstra, for the teacher to check at any time to see if immediate goals are being achieved which will, in turn, lead to a much greater chance for overall success in achieving long term goals.

In an earlier session in Honolulu, Dr. Dykstra and Dr. Johnson pointed out that English is taught through pattern practice, controlled composition, substitution drills and in many other ways. They suggested the possibility and the value that might come from a curriculum that is centered on language learning through actual communication situations.

In-Service Training Probed

The final session of the day was a discussion of the possible content and feasibility of short in-service training projects for teachers. Of particular concern was the proper amount of information that could be presented in such a short time and still influence teacher effectiveness in the classroom.

After a tour of the grounds of the Polynesian Cultural Center, a Polynesian feast, and the evening show, "Magic of the Islands," performed by Church College students, the group returned by bus to Honolulu.

Early Session Talks

Earlier sessions of the Study Group held in Honolulu included talks by Dr. Huber Ellingsworth on "The Meaning of Cross Cultural Communications," and Dr. Rudy Troike on "TESL and Non-Speech." Panel discussions centered on the speeches and two additional presentations on "A Model for Curriculum Design," and "TESL Materials Development and the Hawaii Curriculum Center."