

## Teaching Philosophy (Wei-Ying Lin)

Language learning is a painstaking process that requires many years of patience. But most people have neither the patience nor the determination to learn a language. People nowadays want everything quick. Oftentimes, people hope that by spending a summer in Paris or a year in Beijing, they would be fluent in a new language just like that. The truth is they don't realize that language acquisition is a lifelong process. A few years of study don't even come close to master the fundamentals of a language, let alone the culture.

"If learning a language takes so much time and work, why bothers?" my students ask me.

So I tell them, "It is because learning a new language is such an extended and frustrating process that it humbles you. It encourages us to see differences in each other with compassion. It forces us to put ourselves in other people's shoes, to understand the mind of another people, and to think like they would as we speak their languages. Language is the soul of a culture. When you want to communicate with people in their native tongue, you are making genuine connections with them."

And they ask again, "What's the secret of learning a language?"

So I say, "It's about being patient with yourself and being appreciative of the opportunities and challenges that come with learning a new language."

And this is my teaching philosophy.

I hope my students would learn to be patient in dealing with the frustrations in learning a language. I hope they would continue learning Chinese (or any language) after leaving the school environment. I hope they would continue until reaching the point in which they are able to engage in meaningful conversations in Chinese and use their language skills to help others. I hope one day they would come to see being able to learn Chinese is a privilege, because from the moment they walk into my classroom their world has been expanded twice bigger.

\*Note:

My curriculum and lesson plans are designed to meet the 5 Cs national standards (Communication, Culture, Comparison, Connection, and Community), and task-based activities are the most common form of exercise used in my teaching.