

UNSW Study Tour 2018 Report <Group B>

03 August 2018

Session 1 Reporter: Urara Ito

Teacher: Fiona Davidson

This lesson was the first lesson for us. So I got a bit nervous but I managed to finish it. We did mainly two things.

One is asking questions. We made many pairs and asked a question each other. The questions are:

1. Life is easier for my generation than for my parents when they were young. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
2. Tell your partner: I absolutely love... I quite like... I can't stand... Your examples could be anything - types of music movies personal characters etc. Find out how much you have in common!
3. What is very important or special possession of yours? Describe it and explain why it is so important to you.
4. English is a very difficult language to learn.
5. If you could learn three new skills what would they be? Why?

I was asked no.1 but I couldn't answer well. I was at a loss for words. It was bitterly disappointing to answer well for me.

The other is about languages and countries. We broke up into groups of four and discussed the assignment with members. The assignment was that twelve languages and twelve countries were paired correctly. The correct combinations are]

Spain-Euskara, Iran-Farsi, Laos-Hmong, India-Hindi, Mongolia-Khalkha, Peru-Quechua, The Philippines-Tagalog, East Timor-Tetun, Papuan New Guinea-Tok Pisin, Pakistan-Urdu, China(western)-Uyghur

We had never seen most of the alternatives. So the other members and I got a hint from the initial letters and the end. We guessed but most of our answers were wrong. It was very difficult for us to answer.

In Fiona's class she called on us one after another. So there was a tension. She always said "Don't be shy." I think Japanese are more passive than foreign people. This is a problem for us and for myself too. It was a pity I couldn't answer well. The reason I couldn't is I think I didn't only take a passive attitude but also I had little vocabulary. But this class was exciting because other classmates helped me. In conclusion I must be more active and learn many words. And I went to speak English more and study abroad.

Session 2 Reporter: Mai Nakagawasai

This is the second lesson at UNSW. I learned many things through the two topics.

The first topic is the way to show the places with Australian map. Australia has 7 states. They are Western Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania. Each state's biggest city is Perth, Darwin, Brisbane, Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne and

Hobart. I have never heard the name of a few cities.

I learned about the way to show where the city is located in. And I also learned about the way to explain the famous things. The following are examples of passage which I learned. The first example is about The Blue Mountains. It is in the south east of New South Wales. It is on the east coast. It is south west of Byron Bay. And it is famous for 1 million hectares of forests and bush land. Bush is a plant with many thin branches growing up from the ground. I went to The Blue Mountains in August 3. The view at there was very beautiful. Next example is about The Bungle Bungle Range. It is in the north east of Western Australia. It is south west of Kakadu. And it is famous for amazing orange and black rocks. I have never heard its name. I felt its name was interesting. The last example is about Uluru. It's in the south of The Northern Territory. It is in the middle of Australia. And it is famous for one of the largest rocks in the world. I learned about Uluru when I was a junior high school student. I wanted to visit there since then. This time, I can't visit there. So I want to see it next time. It was difficult for me to explain the places in Australia. However I can understand how to explain the places.

Next, I read the text, "A BOAT made of BOTTLES". There are a lot of words which I don't know their meaning. However I tried to guess the meaning. The following are my impression of that text.

I was surprised at the reality that many rubbish are thrown away. Moreover I was also surprised to read the sentence, plastic rubbish causes about 80% of the pollution in the sea. I think it is a good idea to build the boat with recycled plastic. And there are many good things. For example, The boat uses renewable energy sources. In addition, the most interesting point for me is using the special exercise bicycle. The crew can take a break from work and get some exercise by using the special exercise bicycle.

After reading it, I answered some questions of this text. The first one was the number of crew. Its answer was 6. Next one was number of bottles. Its answer was 12500. I can't answer all of the questions. So I should study English more. Learning about this topic was a good chance to think about environment. This class was a little difficult for me. However it was interesting.

04 August 2018

Blue Mountains Reporter: Misaki Aomatsu

We went to two places with guides, Mr. Damien and Jodie on August 4.

The first place is Featherdale Wildlife Park. There are a lot of animals living in Australia. We were able to see them closer than Japanese zoo. Some student touched koalas and took a picture. I bought food and gave it to kangaroos and wallabies with friends. When we went out the facility, we were in trouble because food was excessed. It was so much that we couldn't finish giving that. At that time, we found a small girl trying to touch a kangaroo and We decided to give food to the girl. It took a lot of courage to do that but we could speak to her and gave it. Her smile made us happy and we got confidence. We learned that Australia has a lot of own animals and makes an effort to protect it and I also learned that importance to speak to someone. The action gave me confidence.

The second place is Blue mountain. It is registered with the world heritage. It has the peculiar

topography shaved with a river and vast eucalyptus forest. We learn that the pattern of the mountain was cut by water. I was very surprise because I could not imagine that there was water to such a high place long time ago. We also learned why the mountain is called "blue" mountain. That is because the oil escaping from eucalyptus leaves reflects on sunlight. We can see the mountain turns blue in the morning and evening.

We had picnic lunch. Not only rice but dessert was delicious. Timtam was a famous food in Australia and we were recommended by Mr. Damien. I knew that Jodie was the same age as us then. He did not look the same age as my classmate. He was very cool.

We also went to Three Sisters. They are rocks made over a long time. Each rock has its own name ,meehni ,Wimlah ,and Gunnedoo. This name comes from an Aboriginal legend. It was a while to see that rock, but I was impressed by the scenery. It was magnificent and could not be made by humans.

I learned this extracurricular learning that there are different kinds of heritage in Australia from Japan. Also I learned listening is very important skill. I could not understand what the guide said. I want to study more about listening for the next time to go to Australia.

05 August 2018

Free Day Reporter: Maho Nakagiri

On Sunday, it was Free Day. I did homestay with Kana. So we spent most of the day with host family.

In the morning, First, we did "origami " with host sister, Ava. To my surprise, she had a lot of origami paper. To explain how to fold was difficult. But, I showed it by setting a example for her. Finally, we made butterfly and "shuriken " . I was glad that she enjoyed it.

After that, host father took us for a drive with the other sister,Ella. He drove to the various places of Sydney. For example,4 Opera House, The Rocks, Sydney University, and so on.

The last place was Bondi Beach. The day was good weather. There were no cloud in the sky. So, the ocean was shining. The water is much clearer than Japan and the sand is like grit. Bondi Beach is the very ideal beach. Many people came there in spite of winter. Then, an unexpected incident happened. We got separated from host father. We walked around the whole time. I felt pressed, "What should I do if I were stranded!?" Then, he approached us. I was so relieved.

In the afternoon , I went to shopping at Broadway shopping center. Ella introduced her favorite cosmetic store. Although she is 13 years old, she is familiar with makeup. I felt as if I were younger than her.

And, at a grocery store, I bought snacks for present . I found interesting things at fruit section. There were the eaten fruits in items for sale. I stared at them while I thought the reason. Then, at astonished, people ate them without hesitation. In addition, the clerks didn't mind that. According to my search, some people try taste for themselves in Australia. It is unbelievable for Japanese.

When I went to home with Kana (Host father & Ella had gone back earlier), there was an accident again. We got on a bus. But Kana lost her Opal card.(Opal card is IC card like Pitapa.) We were so upset because we must pay much money if we don't have it. The driver didn't look gentle. We spoke to him

fearfully ,however couldn't hear what he said.

When we were likely to cry, the card was found the bottom of her bag. At last, we could get off the bus somehow or other and sighed with relief.

The day, everything that I saw in Sydney was flesh and excited!! Some incidents are good experience for me now. There are many places where I haven't been in Sydney. So I hope that I visit to Sydney someday.

06 August 2018

Session 3 Reporter: Moe Sano

We had two hours English lesson from 9 to 11 on Monday, 06 August. Our teacher was Gary. Generally, his class was about pronunciation and used teaching materials about people. The topic was "the quiet revolution".

Firstly, we matched adjectives in the box to descriptions which describe characters, checked their pronunciation, and match the adjectives to their opposites below. Then, we constructed sentences which describe a character using the adjectives and the descriptions.

Gary taught us how to pronounce them. When we pronounce normal sentence, we increase our voices in the first of the sentence, decrease to the half, increase from the half to the end and decrease in the end like wave. He also mentioned that we should pay attention to word joints. If the end of a word is a consonant and the top of the next word is a vowel, we pronounce connecting the consonant and the vowel. And if the end of the word and the top of the next word are a vowel, we put w, y, and so on between them. If there is the same word in one sentence, we pronounce them in a different way. It depends on the meaning.

We worked with a partner and use the sentences which we made to describe each person. Next, he told us the text about the power of the introvert. We listened to it paying attention to his pronunciation. After that, we pronounced after Gary, paying attention to how he pronounced it. He said pronunciation is more important than grammar and speaking English is like singing. He suggested recording our own voice using smartphone when we pronounce English. We listen them carefully, and record for long term. After a few month, we record our voice and compare voice which we recorded a few month ago with it. Then we can see our own progress. It is easy and it doesn't need teachers, but it is the best way to improve our English.

Session 4 Reporter: Masayoshi Miyamae

In the second hour class on August 6, first, we played a little game. The rule was that there were several hexagons like a bee's nest which have two words each on paper, and if one of two words in a hexagon has the part of the same pronunciation as one of two words in a bounded hexagon, we can move to that hexagon. We repeated that and we were heading from start to goal. For example, if there are "do" and "eat" in a hexagon(A) next to another hexagon(B) which has "arm" and "meet", we can move from A to B. Because "eat" has the same pronunciation(i:) as "meet".

Then, we were told that there are three kinds of vowels, short vowels;"o" of "socks", long vowels;"ew" of "new" and two sound vowels;"a" of "late". After that, we sort out vowels of the words in the hexagons into those kinds.

Next, we were told example phrases that can be used at presentation. When we start own presentation, we have to welcome the audiences. For example, at that time, we can say "Good afternoon, everybody. Welcome to our presentation. Today, we would like to compare / explain / describe] ..."

Then, we have to introduce members of own group. For example, we can say "My name is (own name) and would like to introduce (the member's name), (the member's name) and (the member's name)." While we say the members' name, it is better to show the members by using own hand.

After introducing the members, we have to explain the outline of own presentation. In this section, we have to explain the order of the speaker and the theme which the speaker is going to talk about in the presentation. For example, we can say "I will start start by [talking about/introducing the topic of] ...Then, (the member) will explain [the theme] . After that, (the member) will describe [the theme] and finally, (the member will explain [the theme] ."

When we start own presentation, first, we have to explain how many parts the presentation has. If the presentation has 3 parts, we can say "My presentation will be broken into 3 parts. First, let's talk about [first theme] ." Then, we can start the presentation. After first speaker finishes his/her presentation, he/she has to hand over to the next speaker. At that time, we can say "Now, I'd like to introduce (next speaker's name) who will explain..."

07 August 2018

Session 5 Reporter: Sho Sato

Teacher: Gary

At the beginning, we played a pronunciation game. We heard five words; pat,pet,pit,pot and put and we went to correct journey. There is one start and it divided four times. So, we heard four times. Sixteen cities are written on each goal and we answered right city. Also, we practiced with a person who is next to us.

Second, we practiced pronunciation, rhythm and strength with this sentence "Peter piper picked a pot of pickled peppers. " In this sentence, 'P' is very strong sound. This sentence concerned the pronunciation game and we should have said with correct pronunciation. It was not easy but it was very fun.

Third, we learned about the United Nations(the UN). First, we listened to the definition of the UN and wrote down it. After that, we listened to another description of the UN and discussed what we could hear or not in each group. Then, we gave five questions and listened again.

Gary said "I gave these questions to find out what you know but I also gave you these questions to find out what you didn't know. I didn't worry somebody didn't know the answer. To tell somebody ' I'm sorry I don't know' is good English." It is important to talk with each other using English. And we could do lively

discussions. Also, we listened to two sentences and answered true or false, or does the text not say and answered ten questions. We could know a lot about the UN.

Last, we learned the difference between doing and going to, and how to use it. For example, these two sentences have same mean but there is a difference.

I'm going shopping.

I'm going to go shopping.

If we use first sentence, we can add more information which is specific to make a decision.

On the other hand, second one can be more general plan. "Doing" is used when we show final decision and it is never change or it happens in near future. "Be going to" is used when we express the future that is far or may change. That is the only difference. It is very difficult to use properly these two. And then, we solved some questions which is to add lacking phrases to complete the sentences.

Through this class, we learned grammar, using clear pronunciation and the importance of rhythm, strength and being positive to use English.

Session 6 Reporter: Kazunobu Nishimura

The day, same as Monday, we were taught English by Mr. Gary. The main topic in this class was about graph. Graph is one of the way to express our information in the presentation. Therefore, the teacher taught us. First, we thought about differences between number and amount. One thing was countable or not. Another thing is opinion or fact. The teacher told us some example: 「How many lights are in this room?」 「How much light is there in this room?」. First one asks the fact, but second one asks the opinion. Next, we were thinking about kinds of graph. After that, we moved on questions which choose the correct graph with each sentences. In this, we could learn about meaning of preposition. Following the previous questions, we completed the sentences with the correct preposition. There are six sentences. Also, we tried to memorize these sentences and spoke to the person more fluently. The teacher told us advice that we should read English sentences like singing a song or wave of Bondi beach. Subsequently, we tried to change the sentences into the verb or noun form. Because it is difficult, we became quiet not to make mistakes. Then the teacher said, "Do not be afraid of making mistakes. Really important thing is to try speaking English. Better than copying your friend's answers. Please to be confident!" This is what he also said yesterday. Next, we completed a report on digital music sales and also do the graph. We used phrases to fill in the blanks about the change such as decrease, remain and fall steadily. Last, we learned about the changes and trends when we try changing verb tenses into past simple, present perfect and noun form. we had learned about changing it into past simple and present perfect form, but noun form was not already. So, it was a little bit difficult. For example, verb 「level off」 change into noun "a levelling off" and verb "grow" change into noun "a growth". That's all the class we took at the time. Throughout the day, Mr. Gary always said the importance of pronunciation to speak more fluently like the local people. Only in the class, he taught us how to use graphs and tables to make our presentation easier to understand. We will make use of this experience next time. Thank you for reading.

08 August 2018

Cultural Activity Day Reporter: Reiji Fujiike

Circular Quay, The Rocks, Museum, Botanic Garden,

Today, we went sightseeing with Marchia, who is from Indonesia and a UNSW student.

First she took us to The Rocks. There were a lot of nice old buildings which were made of stone. We also saw a pavement with stone made about 200 years ago and went to a history museum. In the museum, we could learn about the history of Australia. Many broken Chinese dishes are displayed there because China was a colony of England and British have brought them to Australia while developing Australia. Besides this, I saw some old things. For example, there was a Pinball Machine which was found at an Australian hotel in 1935 and a wood mixer made about the same age.

After that, we saw a scary apartment in The Rocks. It has a terrible history that a servant was killed and cut down his body into parts. We also saw an interesting tunnel whose wall were filled with footprints.

Thus The Rocks is very historical and now a very popular place among young people because of its classical buildings and fashionable cafes.

Next, we went to food court of West Field Sydney: a shopping mall. After lunch, we went to Botanic Garden. This was second time during this trip but this time we had a guide. We could learned from her about how Indigenous people used the plants around them and their cultures.

Here're some interesting kinds of plants. First one can be used as a soap which cause bubbles with water while scrubbing it. Second enable people to walk more in forests when they're exhausted. Third is tea tree which has an effect of keeping insects off. This plant was seen at supermarket because the tree is often used for medical stuffs in Australia. Besides these plants, there were a lot of interesting plants in Botanic Garden. Then, let me write about Aborigines initiation. At first, about Aboriginal women, they have lost their fifth fingers as tying them with thread. If they tie them, blood can't flow in the fingers and they'll be broke off. Moreover the women have thrown them into sea to pray for good catch. In the case of men, when they become adult, they're taken to somewhere and then broken their front tooth by their father. More scarily, if they cry because of the pain or whatever, their teeth will be broken over and over again until all the side of the teeth are broken. We're all shocked and that was the end of this guide. Everybody seemed to enjoy themselves.

At the end of the day, we went to Gelato Messina which has second best ice-cream in Sydney. I chose raspberry gelato and it was the most delicious ice-cream I've ever eaten. The day was very exciting and would stay in my heart forever.

09 August 2018

Session 7 Reporter: Kana Okamoto

In this English lesson, we learned about "Asking for and giving opinions".

Actually, I don't like English lesson, but I like discussion. Because when I do discussion, I can hear many

different opinions. It was interesting for me. So I enjoyed this English lesson more than usual one.

First, my teacher, Ms. Fiona, asked to us, "What did you do yesterday?", and she taught us how to answer. It was to use "go on an excursion". I don't know this way to say "Where do I go". "Excursion" mean is "little trip". I was little nervous, but I could answer her question, "I went on an excursion to the Botanical Garden". I was glad that I could use and speak English active.

Second, we listened to discussion about unisex fashion. I enjoyed this topic because I like fashion. But there were many characters, so it was little different for me to listen to it. I could learn about both English and clothes. It was interesting for me. I learned about how to ask for opinions, "Do you think ~?" "Don't you think ~?" "How do you feel ~?" and "What do you think ~?". These words are useful to go on discussions. I used this words in practice when I did my presentation later, so I think it was better than when I didn't know these words.

And I could learn about some point to make clothes. For example, the reason why number 3(a red T shirt) is good for hiking is because red stands out. If mountain climbers meet with a disaster, it is easy to find them. I was surprised that designers devise to make clothes.

In this way, I could learn many things which I didn't know. It was very good experience for me.

10 August 2018

Session 9 Final Presentation Reporter: Goushi Nishizaki

In our presentation, we talked about what we researched. Each group, which is consisted of three to four people decided their theme of the presentation. Teacher said to us to research what we really like. But it was a little difficult for us, because some of us don't know what we really like. So, it took a long time to decide our theme.

After that, we researched in computer room. To research things in English was difficult. There were many words whose meaning I don't know. Some of the members of Conversion Club taught me how to research efficiently and what is wrong in my speech manuscript note. They were so kind, although their English was a little difficult. When we can't understand what they are saying, they taught kindly.

Teacher advised us how to speak English fluently. That's to separate clearly strong and weak point as sea waves. In my group, we research about the differences between our home country, Japan and foreign countries.

First presenter of my group, Miyamae reported about climate differences. According to his research, climate of Japan is generally humid in summer. Actually, it didn't rain while this trip. Second was Nishimura. His topic was about geography of Japan and Australia. He explained differences between Australia and Japan. There are much more mountains in Australia than in Japan. He used many kinds of maps to make it easy to understand. Next was Sato. He showed cultural

difference. He used a lot of interesting example of cultural differences. I learned that there is amazing custom in Australia. I didn't know those example.

The last speaker was me. I explained technological differences between Japan and other countries, such as America, China, and Korea. I used two example. One was Bullet train, in Japanese Shinkansen. This is the appearance of advanced technology of Japan. The other was Nishijin-dye. This is very popular among foreign people. The reason is because it is so beautiful, and traditional. Japanese has had great eagerness for their own jobs. This is my group's presentation.

Other group's presentation was also very good. It was very very difficult to make presentation in English for us. And I was so nervous when I was talking. I thought I need to be more confident when I make presentation. But this must have been great experience for all of us.

Session 9 Final Presentation Feedback Reporter: Yui Mizutani

We had a presentation feedback in this class. We presented a lot of topic and I presented about Australian voting rates. I had to remember the script, but the before day, I was too tired and dropped in sleep while remembering the script, so that day I was really nervous. I should had remember more. Our group presented about the difference of policy between Australia and Japan. Everyone basically talked about the difference. Actually this was my first time to go abroad, and I can find many differences. So their presentations were very interesting for me.

I'm in 8 class so I have had many presentations but there are still many points for improvement. First I'm not good at giving eye contact with all audience, so I was given the advice from teacher. I am embarrassed and I can not look the audience in the eye. But I have to improve it. Second I made a small part of the script by copying and pasting the texts on the net. It was difficult for me, and it was hard to remember. There was not enough to remember, and it was necessary to read the script in the presentation. Difficult sentences also confuse audiences. I felt the importance of making scripts in my own English. Third, I should give a presentation with a smile more. When I get nervous or become serious, my smile disappears. Most people will. However, the presentation given with a smile is comfortable. It seems that there is room in the mind of the presenter. I want to practice more to give a pleasant presentation someday.

I learned several things to remember when presenting in class. I thought they would be very useful from now on, so I summarize them in bullets.

《Important things to remember when giving presentations》

- Topic-clear
- Voice-clear / loud and Not flat
- Emphasize key words
- Body language-Stand straight but relaxed Use your hands to help express yourself.
- Strong eye with all audience, not one
- Facial expression use your face to communicate

- Try not to read your notes

I wrote a serious report above but I will write about buses in Australia which made me irritated, so I can't help writing some complaints here. The bus is obviously delayed. Because of that, I was late twice. It gets stuck in a traffic jam. On-street parking is common there. I wanted you to forbid it.

Sometimes the bus came early. I knew for the first time that Japan was truly a time-honored country. Buses will not tell you the station name so you just have to ask the driver for yourself or carefully watch the surrounding scenery. I was touched by the cooperation of the surrounding Australians. At the same time I was proud of the convenience of Japan.

This was my first overseas visit, but I learned that going abroad leads to understanding my own country better. It was a wonderful experience to change my viewpoint greatly.