The Use of Visual Imagery and Pragmatic Strategies in Teaching the Chinese Yuan Dynasty Qu (Poem) “Tian Jing Sha: Autumn Thoughts” to L2 Learners

Wo-Hsin CHU  Chao-Hua WANG
Department of Chinese as a Second Language  Department of Multimedia Design
National Taiwan Normal University  National Taichung University of Science and Technology

Abstract

Classical Chinese literature is one of the necessary components of learning Chinese as a second or foreign language (CSL/CFL). However, L2 learners (second language learners) usually complain about the difficulty of learning classical Chinese literature and even doubt whether it is useful for the improvement of modern Chinese language ability. For this reason, this article is an exploratory study of developing multimedia learning content of classical Chinese poetry for advanced Chinese level students and its effect on improving Chinese pragmatic competence. This goal is achieved through a computer-assisted learning environment, which shows classical literature visually with computer graphics. We take the poem “Tian Jing Sha: Autumn Thoughts” by Mǎ Zhì-Yuán from the Yuan dynasty as an example to produce the multimedia curriculum and to encode the poem’s pragmatic strategy. The exercises are designed to test whether the students, after studying the poem, could make correct inferences about other cases of daily uses of its linguistic context. The result is L2 learners realizing the benefit of learning classical Chinese poetry.

Keywords: Mǎ Zhì-Yuán “Tian Jing Sha: Autumn Thoughts” Situational Representation Visual Imagery Pragmatics Multimedia Computer-Assisted Language Learning.

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