

Wei-Ting Tseng, Chinese Flagship Teaching Intern

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Written: Spring 2022

"In this globalized society, we will have great opportunities to cooperate or compete with people from different countries, languages or cultures in the future."



Weiting Tseng is a teaching intern in WKU's Chinese Flagship program. She is from Taichung, Taiwan. While she was in university, she studied in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature. Now, she is a graduate student at the National Chengchi University majoring in Teaching Chinese as a second language. Her research and teaching interests include Chinese language teaching, corpus linguistics, and pragmatics.

Tseng began learning English in the first grade. She says that she did not have a choice. In Taiwan, everyone starts learning English in elementary school, and English is a subject in high school and on entrance exams for university. She says, "English abilities play a very important role in our future careers." Her main difficulty with learning English was learning to use it in spoken conversation. Since it is mainly studied as a subject to learn for exams, she says conversation in English is lacking. However, she says, "The most important thing when learning a language is not to know many words and grammar, but to communicate with people from different cultures through the language."

Tseng is very passionate about teaching and hopes to learn more about different cultures and exchange different viewpoints through language. Through her time in the United States, she hopes to experience a different way of life and improve her teaching abilities.

She emphasizes the importance of learning another language, especially for Americans. The importance of being able to communicate in multiple languages is emphasized more in other countries than it is in the United States, but it is equally as important for

Americans to learn and value this skill. Tseng emphasizes that we live in a globalized society, and “Language can not only broaden one’s worldview, but also help us learn about different cultures and understand what is happening in the world outside the country.”

Her advice for Americans wanting to learn another language is to take it outside of the classroom. She says, “Try to combine the language with your major and integrate the language into your life. Use the language to think, communicate and express your opinions. Find a learning method that you like and become a lifelong learner.” She also emphasizes that the most difficult, but one of the most important, parts of learning a language is not being afraid to make mistakes.

