

Language and Culture in Sync:  
Teaching the Pragmatics of a Second Language

July 28-August 1, 2008

Summer Institute for Language Teachers

Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition (CARLA)  
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota

A truly daunting challenge for second language learners is to adjust their language use so that it is appropriate for different sociocultural contexts.

How, for example, are learners supposed to address strangers, close friends, or people of higher social status in that culture? While acquiring a speech community's discourse practices can take learners many years, research has shown that the process can be facilitated through explicit instruction. This institute provides practical insights for teachers on how to enhance the learning of pragmatics. Participants will have hands-on opportunities to develop instructional materials and tasks for the classroom.

This institute is designed for K-16 ESL and foreign language teachers, material developers, curriculum coordinators, teacher educators, administrators, and researchers. During this institute, you will:

- a. Review and discuss sociocultural aspects of the learning, use, and teaching of a second language;
- b. Examine learners' pragmatic use and potential causes of pragmatic failure;
- c. Become familiar with approaches to teaching pragmatics;
- d. Develop a pragmatics-focused lesson plan by incorporating research-based information; and
- e. Gain a deeper awareness of your own instructional practice with regard to the teaching of pragmatics.

Workshop Facilitators:

Noriko Ishihara, Ph.D., Hosei University, Japan

Andrew D. Cohen, Ph.D., University of Minnesota

For more information and registration, visit:

<http://www.carla.umn.edu/institutes/2008/schedule.html>