

## Autobiography

### Introduction

I was born in Taiwan, and both my parents are Taiwanese, but due to my father's occupation as a professional diplomat, I had the opportunity to travel and live around the world as a child. I have lived in Uruguay, Panama, The United States - New York, Reno, Poland, Taiwan, Honduras, and Malaysia (averaging about 2 years per country). Although it was hard getting used to the drastic changes caused by moving every 2 to 3 years, I had the chance to experience different cultures, people, religions, weathers, and languages. These experiences built up my ability to adapt to different cultures and most importantly my native-like language skills in four languages, English, Spanish, Chinese, and Taiwanese. During my stay in some countries, I studied in local schools, but mostly in American schools where English was the main language of instruction. I grew up with racially diverse groups from around the world.



American School of Warsaw, Poland

So who am I? I am a multicultural, international, Quadra lingual, Taiwanese that has a passion in teaching languages.

### Deciding my Career Path

Upon high school graduation in Honduras, I decided to go back to Taiwan to sharpen my Mandarin skills also to attend my bachelor's education at Chung Yuan Christian University. I majored in International Trade. During my sophomore year, I started teaching English at a cram school and realized how much I enjoyed helping others improve their English. I loved teaching and soon decided that I wanted to pursue a career in teaching. Upon graduation, instead of going for an MBA, I decided to pursue a master's degree in Teaching English as a Second Language at the University of Nevada, Reno.

### Brief Teaching Philosophy

During the two years in the master's in TESOL program, I learned methodologies, approaches, and theories that have changed my views of teaching. I strike a balance between teacher-centered instruction and student-centered instruction to help students achieve communicative competence. I also understand that student populations differ; therefore, we as teachers must accommodate the needs of the students and be open to new teaching methods.



MA TESOL Graduation, NV.

## Teaching Experience in the United States

I also learned a lot of hands-on experience through my jobs in Reno. In the daytime, I worked at the Intensive English Language Center as the director's assistant. In the evenings, I was an ESL instructor at the Truckee Meadows Community College Adult Basic Education Program. I planned lessons and taught English as a



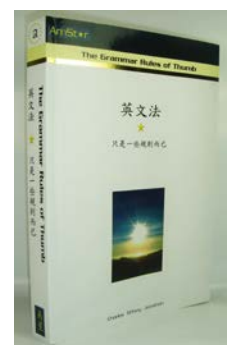
My students at Truckee Meadows Community College, NV, USA

second language to High Beginning Level and Advanced Level Adults, focusing on the CASAS Competencies. On the weekends I tutored the TOEFL iBT to a lady from Iran. My main emphasis was to help her pass the speaking section of the TOEFL iBT. All of these teaching related jobs have taught me valuable experience and helped me realize how much I loved the education field.

## Teaching Experience in Taiwan

Upon graduation, I felt it was my duty to come home and bring everything I have learned in the United States to the students in Taiwan. So I came home and am now a full-time lecturer for the Language Learning and Research Center at National Chiao Tung University. Courses that I teach include Practical English Writing (undergraduates), English Listening (freshmen), Advanced Oral Training (undergraduates), Academic English Writing (graduates), Oral Presentation (graduates), TOEIC (workplace), Pronunciation (workplace) etc.... I also assist all National Chiao Tung University students with English writing during Writing Consultation Hours and conversation during English Tables. Hard work pays off; in 2011, I was awarded the Excellent Teaching Award of National Chiao Tung University.

In February 2008, I co-authored an English grammar book, *The Grammar Rules of Thumb which* (reprinted in 2010). In 2013, I co-authored another book, *New TOEIC: 9 Full Practice Tests*. These books are accompanied with a website ([www.amstarcreative.com](http://www.amstarcreative.com)) where students can watch exciting teaching videos of each chapter, discuss grammatical questions on the forum, and download “goodies” to help them grasp grammatical knowledge. I strive to make English learning more enjoyable and understandable.



## In a nutshell

All my experiences have taught me a lot and continue to teach me invaluable knowledge about teaching and the needs of EFL Taiwanese students. As you can see from my professional background and experiences, I am a passionate and dedicated teacher whose goal is to make a difference not only in students' language ability, but also in their lives.