

SESSION 10: ESL Studies and the Cross-Cultural Issues

Readings to complete before class:

- (1) Morris, Lori. "Differences in Men's and Women's ESL Writing at the Junior College Level: Consequences for Research on Feedback." *Canadian Modern Language Review* 55, no. 2 (December 1998). <http://128.100.205.43/access/jour.ihtml?lp=product/cmlr/552/552-Morris.html>
- (2) McGroarty, Mary. "Cross-Cultural Issues in Adult ESL Classrooms." *Center for Adult English Language Acquisition Digests* (July 1993). http://www.cal.org/caela/esl_resources/digests/cross_cultural.html

Discussion notes:

(1) Morris: "Differences in ESL Writing"

- This study shows that women tend to succeed because they are good at obeying rules. Why does that make them "better" at learning languages and not, say, math – which relies even more heavily on sets of rules than language does?

(2) McGroarty: "Cross-Cultural Issues in Adult ESL Classroom"

- How effective are classroom techniques in overcoming cultural gender inequalities?
- How can teachers respect cultural differences while also ensuring that all the students receive an equal education? (e.g. Sitting in circle, looking at wife.)
- How is doing that different from trying to overcome American traditions of gender inequality?