



# BOLT

Balsamo Outreach for Learning and Teaching

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<http://boltoutreach.org>



**Bill Balsamo**  
1943 - 2008

**"Providing outreach programs, basic nutrition and health education as well as teacher training seminars or workshops that are relevant and practical for educators."**

**From Peter Wanner**  
**Founder BOLT**  
**November 2010**

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## International Language Teaching Conference and the 26<sup>th</sup> Asian Youth Forum in Vietnam

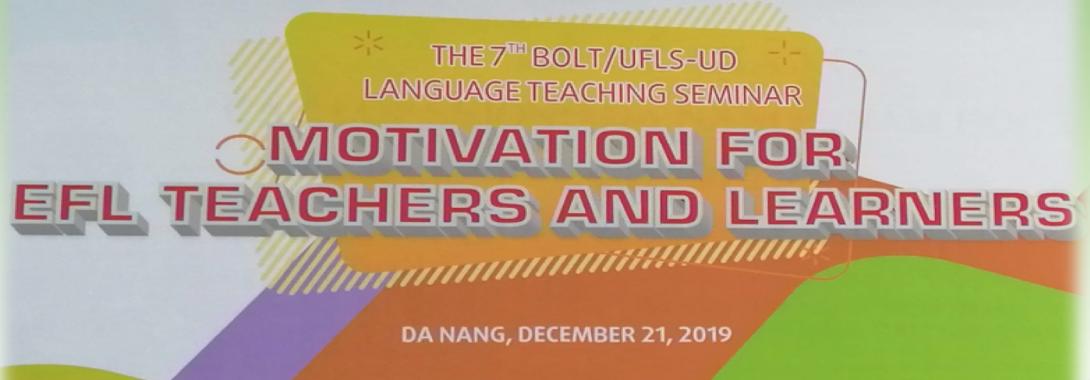
### 26<sup>th</sup> Asian Youth Forum (AYF 26)



THE UNIVERSITY OF DA NANG  
UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDIES



BALSAMO OUTREACH LEARNING AND TEACHING  
JAPAN





The 7<sup>th</sup> BOLT/UFLS-UD Language Teaching Conference took place from December 21-22, 2019 with an attendance of 200 participants. A Plenary Session started off the seminar with Dr. Peter John Wanner, an Associate Professor of the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies, Tohoku University, Japan. He presented the title, 'Word Games Develop English Vocabulary; Apples to Apples,' introducing unique ways to use name cards to enhance the classroom setting. He discussed the implementation of developing vocabulary, specifically adjectives, to describe impressions of other individual interpretations of words that are best descriptive of nouns representing specific people, places, or things. The first day consisted of presentations centering around the theme, 'Motivation for Teaching EFL Teachers and Learners.'





The first Keynote speaker was a guest lecturer of University of Foreign Language Studies, University of DaNang, Ms. Danielle Marie Fischer presenting on 'A Novel Approach to the Teaching of Literature in EFL Classrooms.' Her presentation highlighted the role of studying English through Literature by people of all ages within all cultures. Students in elementary to high school as well as scholars in higher education read and analyze literature while developing a more significant understanding of the English language. Her question for the participants to consider was as follows: Should the approach learning English studies be the same in both the context of a person reading literature from their own country in their native language and a person reading foreign literature in their language of study? In her presentation she highlighted the benefits of reading foreign literature to not only improve language skills in an EFL setting, but also build cross-cultural awareness. She provided examples of how she incorporated an innovative (novel) design of her syllabus for an American Literature course for Vietnamese college students.

The second Keynote speaker was a graduate student from Tohoku University with over two years teaching foreign languages in China, Ms. Chen Xiaying. Her presentation title was 'Transcription as a Process of Self Evaluation.' She discussed how transcription is often used to check students listening skills and vocabulary comprehension. However, she highlighted how it can also be used for checking students speaking skills. She provided results of initial observations of a group of first year students that provide evidence of clear improvement in their listening skills of other students as well as of themselves in student thematic dialogs. These dialogs take place in group discussion of 6-8 students and students speak about a specific theme they might prepare for in advance, but students were prohibited from bringing any cards, paper or dictionaries (including electronic dictionaries) with them to the discussion in front of a video camera. Students spoke in a group for 20 minutes and later reviewed their conversation and dialog with other students in the group to develop a productive vocabulary list of words they actually can produce without referring back to written sources while speaking. Students learned to concentrate on key words and express their ideas accordingly. This presentation demonstrated how this can be done within group discussions of peers to increase speaking time and development of productive English vocabulary.

Additionally, there were additional Vietnamese lecturers and speakers from within Vietnam who contributed to this conference. Over the years, Vietnamese presenters are contributing more to the Language Teaching Conferences showing the fast development of research in Language Education in Vietnam.

The last day of the conference highlighted a tour of Hoi An and nearby historical locations for the visiting lecturers from abroad. It is the hope of BOLT and UFLS-UD that more presenters will join in the seminars and workshops for the next yearly BOLT/UFLS-UD Language Teaching Conference with confirmed dates and a call of papers for the next conference in December 2020.



The 26<sup>th</sup> Asian Youth Forum took place from December 23-27, 2019. A solid group of 20 delegates participated in the whole week of events while an additional 10 delegates joined for various select events. On December 22 many delegates arrived in HoChiMinh, Vietnam from Japan and were greeted by Mr. Quan Vi Minh at the airport around 2:00 pm. The Japanese delegates and Mr. Quan Vi Minh went to the mall near the airport and looked at various shops and varieties of food offered there. In the evening, Mr. Quan Vi Minh accompanied the Japanese delegates to the bus station and joined them on their 8.5 hour journey to DaLat, Vietnam around 6:00 am. Japanese delegates checked in once they arrived at the dormitory and then rested till the afternoon. In the afternoon, they toured and viewed the flower festival activities and then saw the night markets in the evening with other Vietnamese delegates who accompanied them.

