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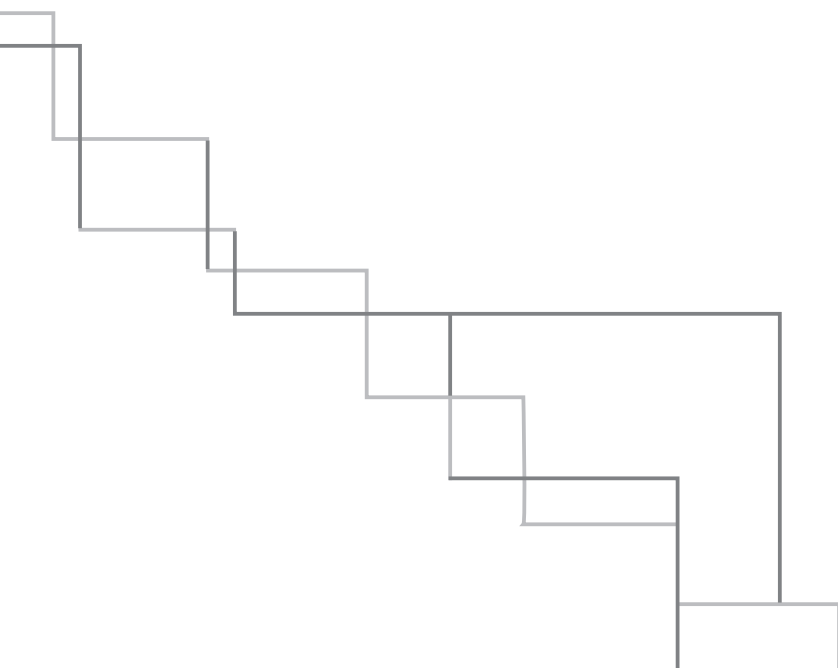
【Practical Reports】

20 Years of PASEO at Chubu University:
A Description and Summary of Changes

..... ALLEN David P. and OGURI Seiko

【実践研究・実践報告】

PASEO20年間の歴史と変化 デイビッド P. アレン・小栗成子



20 Years of PASEO at Chubu University: A Description and Summary of Changes

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Abstract

Chubu University is home to a unique English learning program, established in 1997, that is not found in most other institutions in Japan: the Program for Academic Study in English Overseas (PASEO). In recent years, there have been many changes at Chubu University, and PASEO is no different. This paper will discuss the current status of one of Chubu University's largest English language programs. The purpose of this report is to provide faculty with a general understanding and awareness of the organization, implementation, and goals of the PASEO program. More specifically, this paper will briefly explain the PASEO teaching philosophy and curriculum. Furthermore, it will discuss how PASEO has expanded and adapted to better suit student demands and needs. In addition, this report will provide detailed descriptions of the courses and resources that both students and faculty can utilize here at Chubu University. Finally, suggestions will be made for how PASEO courses can be best utilized by students, staff, and faculty. The overall goal of this study is to not only spread general awareness to the faculty of the PASEO program, but also serve as a springboard for discussions about the future of English education at Chubu University as a whole.

Key words

English language learning, education, curriculum design, PASEO

1 History of PASEO

The Preparation for Academic Study of English Overseas (PASEO) program started as an outgrowth of the Ohio Program for English Language Teaching (OPELT). OPELT began in 1990 as a collaboration between Ohio University's Ohio Program for Intensive English (OPIE) and Chubu University. The OPELT program was originally designed to provide Chubu University with highly qualified English language instructors for general English courses. In the agreement, the OPELT instructors were employed by Ohio

University to work at Chubu University as English as a Foreign Language (EFL) instructors. In 1998, the OPELT mission expanded to include preparing Chubu students to study in English overseas through the PASEO program.

1.1 PASEO Early History

The PASEO program started with a major focus on academic English skills mostly aimed at preparing students to study abroad. Originally, the PASEO program had three main goals: 1) pre-academic language instruction, 2) the promotion of

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internationalization, and 3) empowering students with confidence to continue English study. In addition, the PASEO program specifically focused on encouraging students to apply for the Ohio University Ping Scholarship a tuition scholarship for graduate study at Ohio University.

In the beginning, PASEO classes could not be taken for credit. Instead, students could work towards an OPIE-PASEO Certificate by taking a set number of PASEO courses while at Chubu University. The first major change to come to the PASEO program was in the fall semester of 2000 when students could take PASEO classes for credit for the first time. This semester was also the last semester for the OPIE-PASEO Certificate.

Allowing students to take PASEO for credit eventually resulted in an increase in the total number of students enrolling in PASEO, climbing from a then record enrollment of 295 students in fall 2000 to 376 students in fall 2001. Student enrollment would not drop below 300 students again until the spring semester of 2006, when a new policy restricted freshmen students from enrolling in PASEO during the spring semester. This ban was lifted in the spring semester of 2009 after a record low of 160 students registered for PASEO in spring 2008.

1.2 PASEO Course History

With the early focus of PASEO being on preparation for study abroad, mostly in America, the course offerings focused on Academic Listening and Speaking (5 courses), Academic Reading and Writing (4 courses), Comparative Cultures (3 courses focusing on American culture), and finally Public Speaking (2 courses). As the years passed, more content-based courses began to be added to PASEO, though many were still focused on the needs for students preparing to study abroad. For example, in the spring semester of 2001, PASEO began offering courses designed to prepare students for the TOEFL test. This pattern continued until 2004, when the nature of PASEO classes began to change into the content-based focus that is in use today.

1.3 From OU to Chubu

Perhaps the largest change that has come to the

PASEO program was the renegotiation of the Ohio University - Chubu University agreement that oversaw the OPELT program. At its inception in 1990, the OPELT program was run by Ohio University. Therefore, the OPELT instructors were employees of Ohio University. In 2005, the new agreement turned over the employment of OPELT members to Chubu University. The agreement also solidified the administrative placement of OPELT in the Chubu Language Center, now the Center for Languages and Culture (CLC). The CLC provides assistance with PASEO registration, administrative duties, and support with university procedures and policies. An added benefit of being under the CLC is that it also allows PASEO to be equally accessible to all Chubu University departments.

1.4 Modern Changes in PASEO

The past 13 years of PASEO have been punctuated mostly by growth and adaptation. In 2010 and 2014, the OPELT instructors updated the PASEO curriculum to better suit Chubu University students' unique needs in an EFL setting. The goal of the curriculum changes was to make the teaching objectives for each of the 5 PASEO levels more clear and focused on the skills many Chubu students need to develop as English language learners. This includes providing content that is useful for students that may never study abroad, but need English for work, research, or travel. As such, the name PASEO no longer truly reflects what the program offers.

Since the program's inception PASEO content courses have grown and expanded, both in number and in availability. In terms of quantity, PASEO currently offers 15 content courses. The rise in quantity has also led to an increase in availability. Until 2011, PASEO content courses were only offered on Wednesdays. This made it impossible for some students to take PASEO content courses due to a lack of time in their schedules. As such, PASEO began offering content classes on Thursdays and Fridays as well. In 2014, Tuesday nights became an option for content courses. Currently, PASEO offers content courses every weekday, Monday through Friday. Moreover, effort has been made to ensure that every time block has at least two PASEO courses available, one for lower proficiency

students and one for higher proficiency students. In this way, it is hoped that the maximum number of students and faculty can find time to study English with the PASEO program and practice their English.

Finally, recent courses have been developed in order to cater to the needs of Chubu students. For example, a PASEO Science class was added on Monday afternoon. The topic and time was chosen in order to help students in the sciences with English useful in their field. Also, a new vocabulary course has also been developed to address the needs of higher proficiency students who have a good grasp of grammatical structure, but often lack enough vocabulary to effectively communicate their ideas in English. More information on these courses and others will be discussed later in this paper.

2 PASEO Teaching Philosophy

PASEO is taught by 5 native English speaking TESOL professionals. As such, there is no prescribed teaching style or philosophy. That said, PASEO curriculum is deeply rooted in communicative English instruction and most instructors place heavy emphasis on treating English as a skill rather than a field of study. Thus, PASEO classes are typically dynamic and require students to be active participants in acquiring their English skills. As such, PASEO courses are limited to 25 students. This gives each student ample opportunity to use English in class. Furthermore, PASEO classes are taught exclusively in English, so as to help immerse students in the English language during class time and maximize both their practice and exposure to the language.

PASEO also places heavy emphasis on authenticity. Classes are designed to teach English that is useful both inside and outside of the classroom. Instructors use comprehensible, but natural language that learners are likely encounter in dealing with other English speakers in a variety of social situations. We strive to teach the language as it is currently used.

The PASEO mission and curriculum also both stress the importance of building motivation and autonomy in students so that they are empowered to continue their English studies even after leaving Chubu University.

Instructors in PASEO are also encouraged to develop new courses designed to better address English language needs at Chubu University as well as to explore new methods of English language instruction. In this way, PASEO hopes to continually improve and evolve as each instructor brings their own unique methods, styles, and philosophies into the program.

Finally, PASEO instructors are encouraged to spend time talking with students outside of class and building a rapport with them. This is to give students an opportunity to use their language in natural settings as well as build their confidence and trust. As such, there are several events that happen throughout the year in PASEO, including an overnight trip to the Chubu University Ena Lodge for an English-only camp in the fall, and a bowling party in the summer. The goal is to provide students with as many opportunities as possible to practice their English. International students are also typically invited to these events to help students practice using English and to help build international relationships. The program intends to expand the number of these events in the future.

3 Current Course Offerings

PASEO currently offers 24 different English courses with a variety of different foci. This can be difficult for students to decide which course is best for their needs. Furthermore, it can make it difficult for faculty and advisors to recommend PASEO courses without prior knowledge of the courses and their educational goals. This section aims to address those issues by providing the course descriptions of the current PASEO course offerings and then giving advice and suggestion as to what students may most benefit from each course.

3.1 Academic Listening and Speaking

Academic Listening and Speaking courses improve students' listening skills and develop their ability to communicate in English through speaking. Beginning level students listen to real English and practice the vocabulary, grammar, and common expressions needed for common daily communication. Advanced students learn and

practice academic English speaking and listening skills such as participating in discussions, taking notes, and talking about research. Listening and speaking classes are held on Mondays and Thursdays at the 9-10 block and courses are offered from level 1 to 5.

These courses are recommended for students that wish to develop their communicative abilities, both for academic and non-academic purposes. Since the lower levels focus more on reinforcing basic communicative skills in English, they help students feel more confident to use their English whenever an opportunity presents itself. The first level of Academic Listening and Speaking is called "Intro to PASEO." This class is a good class for beginning EFL learners as it helps ease them into a communicative style classroom, which may be different from what they are used to. Overall, the Academic Listening and Speaking classes are likely the best choice for students that are not yet comfortable with their English. Advanced level students also enjoy these classes, as the upper levels challenge the students to use English to present, debate, and negotiate.

3.2 Academic Reading and Writing

Academic Reading and Writing courses improve students' English reading and writing abilities by practicing reading, grammar, comprehension, vocabulary, and writing. Beginning level students begin using academic reading methods for understanding texts and improve their writing with easy writing assignments to build comfort in using English to write ideas. Advanced students improve their reading and writing skills with advanced academic reading tasks and writing many types of longer reports. These classes meet on Tuesdays and Fridays at the 9-10 block and are offered at levels 2-5.

The Academic Reading and Writing classes are good for students that intend to go into a field where they will be required to read and write in English. In general, most students will benefit from learning academic written language. These courses also often include writing useful for business settings as well.

3.3 PASEO Content Courses

There are currently 15 content courses available throughout the week. Content courses cover a wide variety of topics and English skills. The primary goal of content courses is to have students use English to study, learn, or do something. Unlike the academic courses, content courses are held only once per week. They are listed below with short descriptions and advice in chronological order from Monday to Friday.

3.3.1 Pronunciation Workshop

Pronunciation Workshop is held every Monday at the 5-6 block and is designed for students at PASEO levels 1 to 3. The course provides students with detailed knowledge about English phonics and prosody. This course is recommended for students who have difficulty listening to English. Many lower level Japanese learners of English struggle with their listening due to a lack of familiarity with the sound of English. In-depth knowledge of how these sounds are produced can help students understand how to listen to English. This course is also good for building speaking confidence. Some students are nervous or embarrassed about their pronunciation and this often prevents them from using it openly.

3.3.2 Current Issues

Current Issues is held every Monday at the 5-6 block and is designed for students at PASEO levels 3 to 5. This course uses authentic articles, recordings, and videos to introduce a variety of interesting, current topics, and gives students the background, skills and practice they need to have meaningful discussions about current world issues.

In the course, students have long-form discussions about very serious issues facing the world, such as hunger, immigration, and climate change. It is very useful for higher level students looking to improve their listening and speaking skills.

3.3.3 Advanced Grammar

Advanced Grammar is held every Tuesday at the 9-10 block and is designed for students at PASEO levels 3 to 5. This course is designed to improve students writing and speaking by teaching when

and why certain grammatical structures are used. It is good for students who understand the rules for forming grammatical sentences, but struggle with selecting the correct tense or clause. It also promotes critical thinking in the students as they attempt to discover how English speakers view their own language. There is a lot of writing in this class and it is recommended for students in every field of study. It should be noted that this course is held at the same time as Academic Reading and Writing and thus can serve as a once-a-week substitute for students too busy for a twice-a-week course.

3.3.4 Reading and Vocabulary

Reading and Vocabulary is held every Wednesday at the 3-4 block and is designed for students at PASEO levels 3 to 5. The primary objective of this course is to help students' vocabulary through reading graphic novels and developing autonomous study habits. This class should be taken by students that struggle with reading and writing in English due to a lack of vocabulary.

3.3.5 English for Travel

This course is held every Wednesday at the 3-4 block and is designed for students at PASEO levels 1 to 3. English for Travel focuses on the basic English skills needed to either live or work abroad. It is highly recommended for lower proficiency students that will be studying abroad.

3.3.6 PASEO Science

This course is held every Wednesday at the 3-4 block and is designed for students at PASEO levels 1 to 3. PASEO Science is a course designed to teach students how to speak about scientific issues in English. The course covers various scientific fields, such as biology, chemistry, astrology, and the environment. This course is highly recommended for students in the sciences.

3.3.7 PASEO News

This course is held every Wednesday at the 5-6 block and is designed for students at PASEO levels 2 to 3. Students in the course write and report news stories to develop their communicative English

skills. The course is useful for any students wishing to develop their writing and speaking through practical use.

3.3.8 Discussing Entertainment

This course is held every Wednesday at the 5-6 block and is designed for students at PASEO levels 3 to 5. This course uses all four skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) to analyze and discuss entertainment. The course is designed to build students' vocabulary and communication skills. Students that have a higher proficiency in English, but struggle with motivation or confidence would highly benefit from this course. It is also recommended for students or staff that are studying history or culture.

3.3.9 Conversations

This course is held every Thursday at the 1-2 block and is designed for students at PASEO levels 1 to 2. In this course, students learn to become better communicators in English. It is designed for lower proficiency students that lack the confidence to hold conversations in English. The course works as a good introductory PASEO course for students at Chubu University.

3.3.10 Cultural Identity

This course is held every Thursday at the 1-2 block and is designed for students at PASEO levels 3 to 5. This course is a comparative culture course that challenges students to think critically about Japanese culture and how it relates to other world cultures. The course is highly academic in nature, and often requires students to write academic essays or give presentations on the topic of culture. It is highly recommended for students in the humanities. It is also a good course for students preparing to study abroad, as the class is designed much like an American university course.

3.3.11 Japan Talk

This course is held every Friday at the 5-6 block and is designed for students at PASEO levels 1 to 2. This course is aimed at building listening and speaking skills in students at the lower levels. The course uses the theme of Japanese culture and traditions and helps students learn how to talk

about Japan to people from other countries. It is a very good course for students that need to build their confidence or students who plan to work or study abroad communicate more effectively.

3.3.12 Amazing Stories

This course is held every Friday at the 5-6 block and is designed for students at PASEO levels 1 to 3. Similar to Reading and Vocabulary, this course is designed to build students' vocabulary through reading and discussing short stories. It is designed for students at the lower level and focuses on all four language skills.

3.3.13 Practical English through Sports

This course is held every Friday at the 5-6 block and is designed for students at PASEO levels 1 to 3. This course uses the theme of sports to teach students English language skills useful for both business and academic pursuits. The course has students learn to analyze and discuss numbers, charts, and graphs. Students also learn how to negotiate in English and support opinions with facts. Finally, students learn how to think critically as they manage a sports team. At the end of each term, students must give a presentation. This course was designed mostly for students in business, engineering, and science as it focuses heavily on teaching students to analyze and discuss data in English.

3.3.14 Story Writing

This course is held every Friday at the 5-6 block and is designed for students at PASEO levels 3 to 5.

This class teaches students how to write narratives in English. It is useful for developing their grammatical and writing fluency. Students in the humanities will likely benefit most from the style of writing done in this course, but it is recommended for any students that wish to improve their writing skills.

3.3.15 Writing Fundamentals

This course is held every Friday at the 9-10 block and is designed for students at PASEO levels 1 to 3. This course is a lower level writing course designed to teach students the basics of writing in English, especially at the paragraph level. It is held at the same time as Academic Reading and Writing and can serve as a lower level replacement for the course for students unable to take PASEO twice a week. This course is recommended for any students struggling with their English reading and writing skills.

4 Conclusion

Over the past 20 years, PASEO has been fully committed to providing English language instruction to all students, faculty, and staff at Chubu University. As Chubu University continues to broaden its global presence, English language instruction will become even more important. In order to achieve these goals, it is important to be aware of all the learning opportunities and resources available at Chubu University and how to use them effectively. It is hoped that this short history and discussion of PASEO will be help that aim.

PASEO20年間の歴史と変化

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要 旨

1997年度開設されたPASEO（Program for Academic Study in English Overseas）は、海外留学や英語を必要とする職業をめざしている人や、入学から卒業までしっかり英語力を向上させようとしている人のために開始された他大学には類を見ない英語プログラムである。中部大学の変化に合わせ、PASEOも変化を遂げて今日に至っている。本稿は、英語プログラムとして本学最大規模といえるPASEOについて、時代の流れや受講者のニーズに合わせてどのように変化してきたか、本学の英語習得にどのような影響を与えてきたかについて述べるものである。さらに本稿は、PASEOの目的、構成、運営方法、そしてその根底にあるPASEOの教育哲学について説明し、現行のPASEOのコースの紹介をすることを通して、学生だけでなく教職員も受講できる英語プログラムに対する正しい理解を望むとともに、本学の英語教育のこれからのも資するであろう記録を残そうとするものである。

キーワード

英語教育、教育、カリキュラムデザイン、PASEO