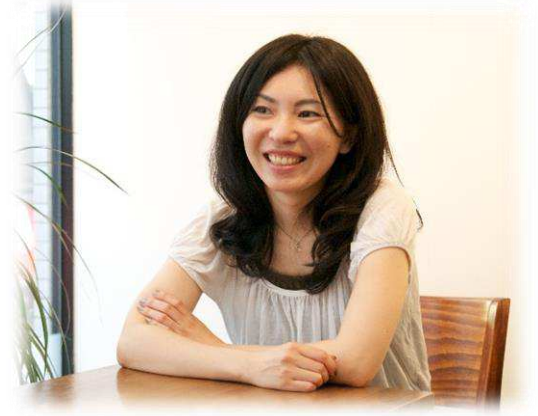


A transition to Language Coach

Interview with Emi Kamiya, Japanese and English Teacher, Japan



“The course also opened my eyes to my own potential as a language coach.”

Can you describe your professional career before taking the language coaching certification (LCC)?

My professional career as a language teacher began in 1997. Since then, I have taught Japanese as a foreign language, and English as a foreign and second language, in Japan and the US. I started offering language coaching online in 2010.

How did you find the course?

The experience on the LCC course was invaluable. The course was wonderful and I learned a lot from the instructor Rachel, as well as from my colleagues. I chose the online course simply because face-to-face wasn't an option for me (I live in the US), but looking back, I think it suited me very well. I like to focus on one thing at a time, for a few hours each day, and take time to reflect after each session.

Which highlights or insights did you gain from the LCC?

I was impressed by the models I learned through the course, because they beautifully summarized something I had known from experience with my students and coachees but could not really explain how it functions and the reasons behind it. The course also opened my eyes to my own potential as a language coach. I also enjoyed the stimulating discussions I had with my colleagues.

What was the immediate impact on your way of teaching after taking the course?

I started to incorporate the idea of telling my coachees about their brains in my coaching sessions. I witnessed the effect which led my coachees to experience “aha moments.” I loved it.

Were there any impacts on your personal life during or after the course?

I became more aware of the activities of my own brain, my emotions, my way of learning, my strengths and limitations. I became more interested in neuroscience. I constantly try to gain knowledge about the latest studies on neuroscience through resources such as TED talks and scientific articles. The knowledge has also helped me strive for self-improvement. I always want to be a better learner.

"I feel honored to spread the effectiveness and impact of language coaching throughout the world."

How would you describe your professional development after the course?

After the information and image of my certificate were added to our website, I got contacted by media and was interviewed by a Japanese newspaper. I often receive inquiries from those who are interested in becoming a language coach from Japan, US, and Europe. It's amazing to know that so many people all over the world are interested in this progressive approach to language education. Being a part of the language coach community is fun and rewarding. I feel honored to spread the effectiveness and impact of language coaching throughout the world.

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"The fact that I am certified gives my clients more confidence to me as a coach"

How has the course changed the way you deliver a language course?

The fact that I am certified gives my clients more confidence in me as a coach, so they feel more open and secure about talking about themselves, which I believe is vital for meaningful sessions.

How would you describe the impact you are now having as a language coach on your learners?

After the first session, most of my coachees reported that it was their first time to openly talk about themselves, think about themselves at a deeper level, and enjoy the experience of self-disclosure. They also appreciate the fact that I am always serious about their learning, rather than just teaching them.

Is there any additional information that you would like to add?

Although some people may think that it is somewhat exclusive, I believe language coaching is effective for any learner regardless of their proficiency levels. To get a chance to correct this wrong impression, I offer free consultations and workshops to invite a wider range of learners. I also hope that our community welcomes the second Japanese language coach after me soon. I see some characteristics as distinctive to Japanese learners of English, and it would be great if I can share what we find and learn from each other.