

VIETNAM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, HANOI
UNIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
FACULTY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHER EDUCATION

GRADUATION PAPER

**CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED BY SECOND-YEAR
STUDENTS IN THE DOCUMENTARY PROJECT
AT UNIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES AND
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

Supervisor : Trần Thị Hiếu Thủy, M.A.

Student : Nguyễn Bích Ngọc

Course : QH2013.F1.E1

HÀ NỘI – 2017

**ĐẠI HỌC QUỐC GIA HÀ NỘI
TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC NGOẠI NGỮ
KHOA SƯ PHẠM TIẾNG ANH**

KHÓA LUẬN TỐT NGHIỆP

**NHỮNG KHÓ KHĂN CỦA SINH VIÊN
NĂM THỨ HAI TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC NGOẠI NGỮ
KHI THỰC HIỆN DỰ ÁN DOCUMENTARY**

Giáo viên hướng dẫn : ThS Trần Thị Hiếu Thủy
Sinh viên : Nguyễn Bích Ngọc
Khóa : QH2013.F1.E1

HÀ NỘI – 2017

Abstract

Challenges that students encountered in project-based learning has been mentioned by a number of researchers in their implementation studies (Krajcik et al., 1998; Stauffacher et al., 2006; Harmer and Stokes, 2014). Nevertheless, there is limited empirical research directly addressing this matter in English language teaching (Harmer and Stokes, 2014). The shortage of evidence on the challenges that students encounter in project-based learning leaves a gap that needs to be filled. Focusing on the context of the Faculty of English Language Teacher Education, University of Languages and International Studies (FELTE, ULIS), this paper attempts to investigate the challenges that students faced, their responses to the challenges and some suggestions they made for further improvement in a project called the Documentary project. For the accomplishment of these purposes, a survey was conducted on 67 second-year students in the Honors Program, among whom 8 students were selected for semi-structured interviews. The results have shown that students faced a number of challenges while conducting the Documentary project, regarding project objectives; project tasks; teacher's instructions ; group members' knowledge/ability; group work during implementation; assessment and feedback of project outcome. The challenges concerning teacher's instruction, group work and assessment were the most prominent. With each type of challenges, students had different responses. Students suggested that teachers should support them by providing more frequent and detailed instructions, specifying the criteria in the marking rubrics and giving more valuable feedback.

Keywords: project-based learning, challenges encountered by students, the Documentary project, students' responses, students' expectations

REFERENCES

- Achilles, C. M., & Hoover, S. P. (1996). *Exploring Problem-Based Learning (PBL) in Grades 6-12*.
- Artie, D., Farrugia, P., Hillis, C., Oczkowski, S., Yoong, K. & Zubairi, M. (2008). *Approaching PBL practically: A guide for students by students*.
- Aufderheide, P. (2007). *Documentary film: A very short introduction*. Oxford University Press.
- Ayas, K. & Zeniuk, N. (2001). Project-Based Learning: Building Communities of Reflective Practitioners. *Management Learning*, 32(1), 61-76.
- Beckett, G. (2002). Teacher and student evaluations of project-based instruction. *TESL Canada journal*, 19(2), 52-66.
- Bell, S. (2010) 'Project-Based Learning for the 21st Century: Skills for the Future'. *The Clearing House: A Journal of Educational Strategies, Issues and Ideas*, 83(2), 39-43.
- Bender, W. N. (2012). *Project-based learning: differentiating instruction for the 21st century*. Thousand Oaks, Calif: Corwin Press
- Bernardo, A. S. (2011). *Reading What's Beyond the Textbooks: Documentary Films as Student Projects in College Reading Courses*. Philippines: University of Santo Tomas Manila.
- Blumenfeld, P. C., Soloway, E., Marx, R. W., Krajcik, J. S., Guzdial, M., & Palincsar, A. (1991). Motivating project-based learning: Sustaining the doing, supporting the learning. *Educational Psychologist*, 26(3-4), 369-398.
- Botha, M. (2010) A project-based learning approach as a method of teaching entrepreneurship to a large group of undergraduate students in South Africa. *Education as Change*, 14(2), 213-232.
- Condliffe, B., Visher, M. G., Bangser, M. R., Drohojowska, S., & Saco, L. (2015). *Project-Based learning: A literature review*.
- Cohen, L., Manion, L. & Morrison, K. (2007). *Research methods in Education*. New York: Routledge.
- Gibbes, M., & Carson, L. (2014). Project-based language learning: an activity theory analysis. *Innovation in Language Learning and Teaching*, 8(2), 171-189.

- Grant, M. (2002). Getting a grip on project-based learning: theory, cases and recommendations. *Meridian: A Middle School Computer Technologies Journal*, 5(1). Retrieved from <https://www.ncsu.edu/meridian/win2002/514/>.
- Grant, M. (2009). *Understanding projects in project-based learning: A students' perspective*. California: American Educational Research Association.
- Harmer, N., & Stokes, A. (2014). The benefits and challenges of project-based learning: A review of the literature. *PedRIO occasional paper*. Retrieved November 5, 2016, from <https://www1.plymouth.ac.uk/research/pedrio/Documents/PedRIO%20Paper%206.pdf>
- Hattie, J., & Timperley, H. (2007). The power of feedback. *Review of educational research*, 77(1), 81-112.
- Hellström, D., Nilsson, F., & Olsson, A. (2009). Group assessment challenges in project-based learning—Perceptions from students in higher engineering courses. In *Den 2: a Utvecklingskonferensen för Sveriges ingenjörsutbildningar*.
- Joyce, T., Evans, I., Pallan, W. & Hopkins, C. (2013) 'A Hands-on Project-based Mechanical Engineering Design Module Focusing on Sustainability'. *Engineering Education*, 8(1).
- Kalabzová, M. (2015). *The application of project based learning in the English classrooms*. Retrieved November 5, 2016, from <https://otik.uk.zcu.cz/bitstream/handle/11025/19660/KALABZOVA,thesis.pdf?sequence=1>
- Krajcik, J. & Blumenfeld, P. C. (2006). Project-based learning. In R. K. Sawyer (Ed.), *The Cambridge handbook of the learning sciences* , 317-334. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.
- Krajcik, J. S., & Shin, N. (2014). Project-based learning. In R. K. Sawyer (Ed.), *The Cambridge handbook of the learning sciences* (2nd ed.), 275-297. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.
- Krajcik, J. S., Blumenfeld, P. C., Marx, R. W., Bass, K. M., Fredricks, J., & Soloway, E. (1998). Inquiry in project-based science classrooms: Initial attempts by middle school students. *The Journal of the Learning Sciences*, 7, 313-350.
- Lestiyawati, R. (2011). *The Use of Documentary Films in BBC VCD as Alternative Media in Improving Students' Ability in Writing Report (An*

Experimental Study of the Eleventh Graders of SMA Negeri 2 Wonosobo in the Academic Year of 2010/2011) (Doctoral dissertation, Universitas Negeri Semarang).

- Mapes, M. R. (2009). Effects and challenges of project-based learning: A review. *Masters Thesis for the Degree of Masters of Arts in Education at Northern Michigan University, Marquette, Michigan.*
- Morris, P. (1987). Re-thinking Grierson: the ideology of John Grierson. *Dialogue: Canadian and Quebec Cinema*, 3, 21-56.
- Nguyen, T. V. L. (2011). Project-based learning in teaching English as a foreign language. *VNU Journal of Science, Foreign Languages*, 27, 140.
- Parker, W. C., Lo, J., Yeo, A. J., Valencia, S. W., Nguyen, D., Abbott, R. D., Nolen, S. B., Bransford, J. D., & Vye, N. J. (2013). Beyond breadth-speed-test: Toward deeper knowing and engagement in an advanced placement course. *American Educational Research Journal*, 50(6), 1424-1459.
- Reddy, Y.M. & Andrade, H. (2010). A review of rubric use in higher education. *Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education*. 35(4), 435.
- Shea, R. H. (2008). *Using Documentary Film as an Introduction to Rhetoric*. Maryland: The College Board.
- Stauffacher, M., Walter, A. I., Lang, D. J., Wiek, A., & Scholz, R. W. (2006). Learning to research environmental problems from a functional socio-cultural constructivism perspective: the transdisciplinary case study approach. *International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education*, 7(3), 252-275.
- Thomas, J. W. (2000). *A review of research on project-based learning*. California: The Autodesk Foundation.
- Van den Bergh, V., Mortelmans, D., Spooren, P., Van Petegem, P., Gijbels, D., & Vanthournout, G. (2006). New assessment modes within project-based education-the stakeholders. *Studies in educational evaluation*, 32(4), 345-368.