

Abstracts for ATEL Conference 2016 Rob Dean

(Plenary)

Bright Ideas and Dead Ends – ELT as it was, is now (and might be in the future)

This talk will take the form of a light hearted journey through the last 100 years of English Language Teaching – from the grammar translation methods of the 19th century all the way to the task based and the lexical approaches of the 21st. Our journey will look at how methodologies and ideas were born and developed into what we use today - or in some cases quite rightly confined to the dustbins of history. We will conclude by speculating what the future might hold in terms of language teaching methodology.

(Workshop:)

Conventional Wisdom or Complete Madness? Questioning Common Beliefs in ELT Methodology

“Never use the students’ first language in class, always ensure that the students speak more than the teacher, and whatever you do, never ask the students to read aloud!” These were just some of the rules of the classroom that I was told to obey when I began my teaching career. Now, more than twenty years later, I have some serious doubts about the validity of some of this advice. In this session, we will put these, along with a number of other commonly held beliefs under the microscope to test out whether in fact the opposite message may be more helpful for the learner and teacher alike.

Rob Dean Biodata

Rob has been involved in ELT as a teacher, director of studies and teacher trainer since 1994. During this time, he has taught a wide variety of ages and levels in numerous countries in Europe and South East Asia, and is currently based in Poland. Rob now works as an independent international teacher trainer and academic consultant, and travels widely delivering talks, workshops and seminars – as well as online webinars - to teachers all over the world.

