National and international research articles
Moral values and culture essays
6th International CIEX Symposium Session Summaries

October 2016
Moral Values and Culture Essays
It was my first time in a foreign country and it was the most amazing experience I had ever lived in my life. At the moment that my American visa was delivered, an incredible sensation came into my whole body and a wave of emotions wanted to emerge from my soul. As soon I left the main office from the Mexican Embassy my eyes reflected my emotions wanting to appear. It was just the beginning of a great experience about to take place at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), in the United States.

At the time I landed to the airport in San Antonio, Texas I felt so happy, Mr. Gerry Lee was in charge of giving me a warm welcome in that beautiful city. Dr. Dorinda Rolle was the one who offered me her home, a tall and intelligent woman in her 50s with a lot of experience in the area of teaching leadership at UTSA. I learned many good habits from her. My stay in her house was very productive, I realized that people who achieve great things have to have very good habits and moral values, such as discipline, order, love, cleanness, respect, and punctuality among others. I agree with what Socrates (186b) stated: moral values are essential for human beings’ wisdom and happiness. Here is where I started learning that positive moral values contribute to intelligence and delight for life.

The experience continues with the journey to UTSA, I remember the first challenge that I faced was the fact of having to take the bus, since the time that the buses run by the bus stop is very precise. Mrs. Rolle used to tell me the exact time that I needed to go out from home and get to the bus stop punctually, and I had to be ready at that time. Catching the bus was very hard at the beginning because of the weather, since it was extremely cold sometimes and it was very hard to be out from home. Here the moral value that was present was responsibility. According to Plato, “responsibility is fundamental to any system of ethics, because claiming that people ought to take certain actions, presupposes a choice which determines the action taken and for which the individual is responsible” (Mertz, 1995). In this point I learned responsibility meant much more than just arriving on time to the University, because the fact of being punctual meant that I could participate in all the activities already planned and no doubt I wanted to learn the most form that wonderful experience.

Sometimes on Sundays, we used to go to the church at certain time, and I had to be punctual so we could all leave home early. At the church, I met very kind people; they usually give me a warm greeting. Inside the church, everybody was quiet and respectful, the performance of the musicians and singers was gorgeous, I really enjoyed that moment singing with all of them. Here I learned that kindness is a moral value that offers joy and peace. According to Socrates “beauty is the bait which with delight allures man to enlarge his kind”. This idea might demonstrate that beauty and kindness are related. This experience I had with the people in the church made me see the beauty of life in general since they were extremely kind to me and to each other, therefore I agree with Socrates’ statement.

Being at UTSA was great, because after a long time, I was finally living my dream. Taking the bus to commute was a really amazing adventure since I enjoyed watching many places through the
bus window and also having some talks with some native speakers. Being in a classroom with a lot of people talking English was amazing and helpful, as well as going to the cafeteria and ordering my meals interacting with native speakers; those were unique experiences. I used to say hello to everybody to practice English and most of the time I had small conversations with students and professors from different parts of the world since a lot of them come from different countries. Everyone was kind, friendly and they were willing to talk to me, they helped a lot to communicate during the conversations.

Once, I wanted to go downtown by myself, it was funny because I got lost in my way, but a kind lady helped me to get there. Now that I think about it, I still feel surprised because she took me to the main bus stop downtown without asking anything. The moral principle I see in these situations is willingness to help others.

I remember that cold morning on the weekend that I and the professors Miguel Murga, Norma Murga and Maria del Carmen Castillo had lunch in a restaurant, where we spent very good time talking to each other. We had to wait outside in the cold weather for a table to sit at, since the restaurant was full of people. Finally, after some minutes waiting we could get a table inside the restaurant. I remember that a family was having lunch in the middle of the restaurant. After some minutes, that family finished eating and we occupied that same table. But there was something under the table that called my attention; it was a bunch of money and I supposed that one member of the family had dropped it during their meal. The first thing that I did was to take the money I ran to the man who was having lunch with his two kids and wife, they were outside the restaurant but I could reach him and gave him the money back. At the beginning he got surprised because he had not realized that he had lost his money in the restaurant. He told me: “Thanks a lot, Anuar!” ... I got frozen because he knew my name, but then I realized that he had already heard my name when my professor Miguel Murga called me in the restaurant. That was definitely a great and funny story in which I could confirm that being honest is a moral value that will always be positive and will always give you the satisfaction of having done the right thing or having helped others. What happened in this situation made me think in Aristotle’s words: “in cases when a man is truthful both in speech and conduct when no considerations of honesty come in, such sincerity might be esteemed a moral excellence; for the lover of the truth, who is truthful even when nothing depends on it”. This principle might be interpreted as follows: when a person is honest, no matter the circumstances, the person is honest because that moral value is innate in his/her personality. I do not regret having given that man his money back, I consider I did the right thing.

On the other hand, I would like to share something that I really enjoyed during my stay as a student during the UTSA classrooms, my classmates used to be very relaxed during the classes, but some other students used to be very active, too (I used to have different classes with different students). Also, some of them used to sleep in class, but some of them used to participate a lot and asked many questions to the professors about the topics being discussed. I still remember some faces, they looked very worried about some tasks that they had to do after class in order to pass the course. Professor Kristen Schaub Lindahl, a beautiful, intelligent and tall girl was the one who taught a very productive class about second language acquisition, I felt in the heaven during her lessons. And... how to forget the doctor Mirta Maldonado Valentin, a tall and an intelligent girl, a very friendly and active academic, she really helped me to do the assignments and tasks in her class, I really felt good participating, working in teams with students and expressing my opinions about the content of the lessons.

In my recess, I used to spend time at the Bicultural-Bilingual studies department, a really warm place where a lot of kind and respectful people used to work; I really enjoyed passing some time working in there. Doctor Peter Sayer and my dear Becky Ross were the ones whom I had a lot of contact with. Nowadays, I still feel really blessed for being part of that great team who organized the TEXLER event, where very important researchers from different parts of the world participated.
and enriched this great experience. By doing those activities at UTSA, I learned that the moral value of dedication to work rewards a lot of the time invested offers back many satisfactions and permits professional and personal growth. This fact makes me reflect about Confucius quote: “Choose a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life” (Pérez, 1982). This could mean that if someone loves his/her work, it would be a pleasure to do it and it won’t be seen as a negative experience in our lives.

Later, because the time of coming back to Mexico was getting closer and the weather was getting worse, and since I am not used to low temperatures (under 2 degree Celsius) and I had ready lost around 8 kilograms, I did not want to come back to Mexico. Honestly, I was living the greatest adventure in my life ever. I did not want to wake up from my dream.

Finally, during my flight coming back to Mexico a lot of thoughts came to my mind and I thanked God for letting me live this great and productive experience that permitted me to meet great humble people. I learned that it does not matter the grade of studies that a person has, not matter what position he/she has in any job, the more knowledge they possess, a human being must demonstrate positive moral values in all situations, and as Walker, A. (n.d) says: “Thank you is the best prayer that anyone could say. I say that one a lot. Thank you expresses extreme gratitude, humility and understanding”.

References:


The guidelines to write and present the proposals are described below:

a. **Key words.** Five, in English and in Spanish.

b. **Abstract** (in English and in Spanish, 150 words), containing the following aspects:
   - **Introduction:** describe the context where the research was carried out, reason why the topic was selected, importance of the study, reason why the research was carried out.
   - **Purpose:** state and explain the research objectives, intentions, questions or hypothesis.
   - **Method:** mention and justify the research method that was selected, describe briefly the subjects, the context and the research procedures, as well as the instruments that were used for the data and information collection.
   - **Product:** present the main findings, the degree to which the research objectives were reached and the answers to the research questions.
   - **Conclusion:** suggest the importance of the findings, considering the contribution to the theory, the research area and professional practice. Suggest practical uses as well as possible applications for further research.

c. **Introduction:** present the research topic area, studied theme and the research study it is: descriptive, explaining, evaluative, correlational, interpretative, ethnographic, etc. Also, emphasize the research problem.

d. **Literature review:** present the main terms, concepts, and theoretical claims, analyzing and discussing the ideas presented by the main authors who have studied the topics related to the research or study presented.

e. **Research methodology:** describe the design features (case study, longitudinal research, transversal research, experimental research, quasi-experimental research, etc.) **Data type** (describe and justify the database, or universe, or sample, etc.) **Subjects** (characterize the participants in the research). **Context** (describe the geographic and the institutional context where the research was carried out). **Instruments** (describe the research instruments used to collect information and data). **Data analysis methods** (describe and justify the quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods).

f. **Main findings and conclusions.**

g. **Main research** strengthens (related to the originality of the findings, contribution to the knowledge about a certain topic, or some other findings that contribute to the existing ones).

h. **Main limitations of the study** (related to the geographical or institutional context or knowledge area where the conclusions or suggestions could be applicable).

i. **Main applications and impact of the research.**

**TOPICS FOR THE ARTICLES:**

1. Learning and teaching processes.
2. Professional competences development.
3. Teaching methodology using constructivist principles.
4. Curriculum design, design of language programs or language teaching materials.
5. Language learning evaluation.
7. Research and professional development.
FORMAT:
Title using Arial font, size 14
Text using Arial font, size 12
Margins: top 2.5, bottom 2.5, left 2.5, right 2.5.
Spaces: 1.5
No indented paragraphs

LENGTH OF THE ARTICLES:
8 to 10 pages containing text
1-2 pages containing references (using the APA format) (American Psychological Association).

LANGUAGES:
The article can be written in English, French, German, Mandarin Chinese or Spanish.

Include: Author/s biography/ies indicating:
Academic degree, full name, email address, institution where he/she/they work, and functions, name of the research team or “Cuerpo Académico”, indicating the status of the “CA” and research areas he/she/they study.

DEADLINE TO SEND ARTICLES:
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CONVOCA

A los aspirantes interesados en cursar la Licenciatura en Letras Inglesas ó la Maestría en la Enseñanza del Idioma Inglés y Lingüística Aplicada: a participate en el Concurso de Selección para el ingreso al Ciclo Escolar 2017-2018, presentando el examen de admisión que se realizará los días sábados hasta el 5 de agosto de 2017, conforme a los siguientes:

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Los interesados en participar, en apego al Reglamento del Centro de Idiomas Extranjeros "Ignacio Manuel Altamirano", deberán realizar todos los trámites y procedimientos, además de cumplir con los requisitos descritos en el cronograma y el instructivo correspondientes a esta Convocatoria, los cuales son:

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