The application of Inquiry Learning Model (ILM) in teaching Chinese as a foreign language

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Paper Abstract：

The inquiry learning model (ILM) presented here is based on the theory of Richard Schuman and has been improved and extended in the academic setting and practice of teaching. The core of this approach is for students to explore a range of problems under the guidance of teachers and learn more skills and rational strategies for problem-solving in the exploration of the unknown to transform students from passive to active learning with cooperative self-help.

In the inquiry lesson, under a fully Chinese language environment, the students will try to discover an unknown and predetermined destination city they will travel to and build a comprehensive background for it through searching the data indexes. In the study process, step-by-step, the teacher will provide the students chat information with "WeChat", elements to prepare, and other relevant documents and pictures. By using their geographical, cultural knowledge, and Chinese language skills, the students will make reasonable assumptions in responses to the targeted questions. As the students encounter each artifact, they will need to use critical thinking skills to make reasonable guesses about their destination, and eventually lock up on the target city of Xi'an, China.

Presenter's Bio：

Dr. Sherri Duan is an Assistant Professor and the Director of the Chinese Language Master of Arts in Teaching program at Clarkson University's Capital Region Campus, where she teaches Chinese Grammar & Linguistics and Curriculum and Methods in Teaching Chinese. Dr. Duan also supervises Chinese Language resident teachers during their full-year teaching residencies in area schools. Dr. Duan earned her Ph.D. at Beijing Normal University. Dr. Duan is the Editor of the Journal of Research on Chinese Language Teaching and is also honored to be a member of the Advisory Committee in Higher Education of the American Academy of International Culture and Education. In 2020, Dr. Duan obtained the Clarkson University Student Association (CUSA) Outstanding Teaching Award. She was a distinguished professor honored by the Hunan Institute of Technology in China, 2019-2022. Dr. Duan's research fields include diachronic study of "Jiang(将)/Ba(把)" constructions and the methodology of teach Chinese as a foreign language. Her book Research on "Jiang" Constructions from pre-Qin to Sui-Tang Dynasties was published by Nankai University Press 2019.