

### Heather Austin - Reflection on PD Project – 2020-2021

I was inspired to do this project in 2016 when I attended a conference which held a session about metaphor analysis and textbooks. I've always been somewhat of a writer, so I can easily lose myself in a good metaphor. I appreciate them, not only for the intriguing comparisons they draw but also for the unconscious assumptions that are revealed by the person using the metaphor. You can actually learn a lot about a person by paying attention to the metaphors they come up with. Little did I know, there is a ton of research on metaphor and metaphor analysis, so I was like a kid in a candy store when doing the literature review for the presentation which my project partner, Mary Jane, and I presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> TESOL Turkey International ELT Conference. I have done research before, but this project is something I feel really proud of because it felt very intentional – the topic is something I am very interested in, the results were incredibly telling, the literature review was insightful, and the implications are tangible. The timing for this type of research was right, and the metaphor prompt is a question we all had in our minds at the time: "Online education is like...". It is no easy feat to reach over 50 teachers and 250+ students to collect data, not to mention the time it takes to analyze it all. Even on a personal level, I found the results of the project to be very compelling, demonstrating the realities that teachers and students found themselves in during the days of forced online education due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I think it was important that the research was conducted after the first semester of *planned* online education as we already kind of knew what to expect thanks to the previous spring term that had been interrupted and moved online, but at the same time we were still in uncharted territory. Thus, the take-aways from this type of research could be really beneficial, especially if online education becomes a permanent post-pandemic mode of education.

I feel like thanks to this PD project, I have engaged in research that is mature. What I mean is I have a better understanding of the research process, both qualitative and quantitative, and I can better see how all of the parts go together to produce research that is meaningful and timely. Despite being a relatively "amateur" project, I feel it can still contribute to the research community in regards to online education, metaphor analysis, and even cognitive linguistics. I am excited to write up a proper article at some point and hopefully publish it in a web of science journal. It's a pleasure to work with Mary Jane, and the project wouldn't be what it is without her insights. Ezgi was also a huge help in handling the SPSS side of things, and Anita was very supportive as my PD tutor. Overall, I feel grateful to all of the students, teachers, other and colleagues involved in helping collect the data and giving feedback. I feel lucky to have had the necessary support to implement this project over this academic year.