**File ID\_SS07\_M\_Poland**

**STAGE 1**

* Age: 19yrs
* Studied all subjects in Polish but took private English classes

**EFY EXPERIENCE + ATTITUDE**

I How do you feel about being an EFY student?

SS07 I find myself quite confident,

I confident, what made you confident?

P experience that I gained in my high school,

I high school?

P because I learnt a lot from my high school, my high school is really good, it gave me this preparation for further education

I and, how about being here, in the foundation here, anything new you learn here?

LANGUAGE

P there were a few concepts I learn here, but, mostly English as I said before. I managed start speaking English fluently, which is for me is a great achievement, I think, because this is the purpose I come here to study in English. This was my conscious decision that I’m going to foundation, despite, the knowledge that I have to learn, despite the engineering programme, my only purpose is to start speaking fluently. That in the next year, in the first year I will be able to understand terminologies, engineering terminologies, and other concepts that I will required it to know, this is my perspective

I So, now you say you’re more confident to communicate with others?

P Yes

I So, what created that opportunity?

P I’m accepted here

I Ok, you feel you’ve been accepted?

P No, I mean, again the question?

I You know when you speak, is it because you always try to speak in English even though with people from the same first language background, or is it like a conscious decision you know, I’m here, I want to learn I want to speak, therefore I want to go out and mix with everybody?

LANGUAGE

P Yes, this is my approach, I do everything I can to practise in English, so, whenever I have opportunity to go and speak to people, even it’s like a casual conversation in halls, in the university halls when I’m speaking with friends like casual things or is like a conversation like in this moment, right? We can speak about more sophisticated topics let’s say, it’s for me opportunity for me to practise my English, and here this university gives me the opportunity to practise because we have for example we have English classes, English for Academic classes, I took part in those classes. So, I’m trying to take as much from the foundation year, this year as I much as I can

I So, you interestingly mentioned about EAP course, did you take speaking course, is that the twelve weeks course, the short course, or the six weeks course?

P I’m not sure

I okay, so attended the EAP course, it’s only once a week?

P Yes, I took the speaking course

I only speaking?

P only speaking

**PRE-KNOWLEDGE ON CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS**

I So, what do you understand about critical thinking skills? What is your understanding if you want to define it in your own words?

P I think, because we read the definition from Wikipedia [laugh]

I Wikipedia? [laugh]

P because we’re curious about this, we’re having a conversation about this

I yes?

P because I don’t want to speak about something that I don’t really know, so I don’t know from the perspective, how to define right? So…

I what do you think it is, if you’re to make a wild guess?

P wild guess, I think it’s like being able to make like clear judgement about decision, about the problems, about things that you have to deal with, the problem that you encounter and how to solve them, and not to solve them in the way to get the answer correct, but to know why this answer is correct in the term of every part of the answer is it clear or concise

I so, can I say, you got to correct me ok? For you can I say critical thinking is about making clear judgment?

P yes

**PREVIOUS LEARNING + ATTITUDE**

I So, did have any experience learning critical thinking skills, if yes, how, if not why you hadn’t have the chance to learn critical thinking skills?

P May be I learn sub-consciously, because we didn’t have a lesson like critical thinking in my high school, so what they could learn us is to think clearly, critically, but not in a direct way, maybe by trying to explain us how to properly solve, I don’t know for example Maths or Physics problem, or in a other way, but it wasn’t done in a direct way

**PRACTICE + PROMOTE INDEPENDENT LEARNING**

I As a FY ss in what aspect do you think you had opportunity to learn and practise critical thinking skills? Now, for example you have lectured, workshops, you have lab works, assignments, individual and group work, you’ve individual assignments, you worksheets to do, yes?

P for sure I had learnt a lot from Routes to Success. It was partly critical thinking about, not the engineering knowledge but about the university life, how I find myself here

I so, which semester give you more opportunity?

SS07 I would say second semester. Yes, because in the first semester they introduce everything to us like a start. And then, from second semester we directly started all things very deeply let’s say of all the details

I so you had more opportunity in semester two, yeah? Right, so, in your opinion which module in your engineering foundation year programme provided more practice, more opportunity on critical thinking skills? And why this module is better than the other? It could be one, could more, is there specific module give you more opportunity to practise the skills?

SS07 I would say Electricity and Electronics, again it was not the direct way because the lecturer didn’t learn directly, he didn’t learn us critical thinking directly but he was giving the lectures in a way that you really could learn how to think about his subject. How to clearly understand the concept of Electronics, so yeah, I was able to understand fully the topics during the lectures. And it was kind of critical thinking relevant to Electronics

I can you give one example in EE during lectures that really challenge your thinking?

SS07 for example visualisation, but I’m talking about for example waves how you can explain some concepts, sometimes in a funny way, sometimes like other moving objects, so there’s animation. So, it’s really eye catching, you remember it because for example it was funny. Like it was funny for example when he was explaining how the current is flowing, ‘imagine I am now the electron’ and he was running in a circle like electron (laughs)

I okay. So, it’s more of a visual presentation yes?

SS07 yes. He could managed to influence our imagination, like it was funny, for example when he was explaining how the current is flowing, ‘imagine I am now the electron’ and he was running in a circle like electron (laughs)

**PRACTICE – WORKSHOP**

I every students are given the opportunity to attend workshop sessions, so have you attended the workshop sessions?

SS07 yes

I did this workshop session encourages you to be critical?

SS07 ( \_ ) no, they didn’t encourage me, because I’m already encouraged. I’m already encouraged to think clearly of what I am doing, so there was no reason to for me to be encouraged by the workshop session

I Yeah, I think there’re a few workshops for EE, EP, Maths, so which one do you attend, do you go for all three, or…

SS07 all of them. If I have some questions I ask the PGTA students, but mostly I was doing problem related subjects

I but, you don’t think the sessions helped?

SS07 it didn’t help with critical thinking, it helped I don’t know consolidating the knowledge, engineering subjects we were studying

I I like the way you use the word ‘consolidation’

SS07 yes, English course (laughs)

**PRACTICE – PGTA**

I right. Apart from workshop session, you’re also provided with PGTAs, so what are their roles?

SS07 they were helping us if we had any problems

I so, do you always get assistance from them or like you’ve to wait like the ratio, one to how many?

SS07 I don’t think I have problem fighting for PGTA

I they do help, yes?

SS07 yeah

I I’ve been informed that PGTA need to sign you off for the lab report, yes? So, do they just sign you off, or do they…

SS07 but, of course they were asking what’s the answer means and how did you, they try to find out if you understand fully

PRACTICE – over all + INDEPENDENT LEARNING

I in what aspect do you think you have opportunity to learn and practise critical thinking skills, for examples you’ve lectures, workshops you have lab work, assignment, individual, group work, computer application is a group work and you’ve worksheets to do as well, yeah? You’ve lots of things to do, and which one actually challenged you?

P individual assignment, why? Because I could like, let’s say I can bring my own approach to a problem, I could solve and do it in my own way. For example, during portfolio I really like thought about this problem, if I want to do this kinds of things I don’t like writing essays, let’s do the way it might help me in the future. So, I really thought the questions, what I think about studying here and so on, question about critical thinking. I think it was really helpful, and for example writing for formal report also, because you got to somehow go beyond the experiment which was not taught on the course and you might learn a little bit more because of this

I right, that portfolio is it for every module or just…

SS07 No, it was Routes to Success to write a reflective report, it was good to have that

**KNOWLEDGE – CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS**

I Right, we’ve come to the end of our session, how would define critical thinking skills now?

P Making clear judgement