

PTCI Task 2: Classroom Interaction Patterns

The IRF pattern of interaction, as seen below, is extremely common in language classrooms, with the teacher **Initiating**, the students **Responding**, and the teacher giving **Feedback**.

Below is how one course book presents an activity to talk about experiences. Read it and then read the classroom interaction that might arise while using this activity. T stands for the teacher; S stands for student.

Experiences

You can use the present perfect to talk about people's experiences. Work in pairs or in a small group. Ask each other some questions. You can answer:

No, I haven't Yes, I have

and say when. (Be careful! Use the Past simple.) For example:

Have you ever eaten snake meat? – Yes, I have. I ate it yesterday.

Have you ever been to America? – Yes, I have. I went last year.

(From: *Explorer* (1992) Burlington Publications Limassol Cyprus)

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|----|---|--|
| 1 | T | Now I'm going to ask you some sentences ok. I want you to give me |
| 2 | | some answers |
| 3 | | Have you ever seen a ghost? Anna? |
| 4 | S | No |
| 5 | T | <u>No I haven't</u> |
| 6 | | Have you ever walked 50 kilometres? Mick? |
| 7 | S | Eh yes |
| 8 | T | <u>Yes what?</u> |
| 9 | S | Yes I have |
| 10 | T | <u>Yes I have. Have you ever broken an arm or a leg? Jenny?</u> |
| 11 | S | No I haven't |
| 12 | T | <u>No I haven't – and I hope you'll never do that. Have you ever</u> |
| 13 | | <u>baked a cake? Linda?</u> |
| 14 | S | No I haven't |
| 15 | T | <u>No I haven't</u> |

(@Morris-Adams)

- Can you identify the IRF pattern here? Put **I**, **R** or **F** by the respective lines.
- What are the role and effects of the teacher's feedback in the underlined parts of the extract?
- What do you see as the positives and negatives of this classroom interaction?
- If you were to use this activity, what, if anything, would you change?
- If possible, record yourself and explain how you would employ this interaction pattern.

