Reflection Paper on Chapter 7

This chapter discusses the gap between classroom language and language used in our real life. Pragmatics is always a big issue for teachers to consider about. No matter how authentic the classroom tasks are, it is inevitable that the language used in the classroom is limited due to the lack of authentic input, the context, and so on. Also, it is nearly impossible for teachers to cover every details of the usage of languages used outside the classroom. So I think raising students’ awareness might be the primary, as well as a practical goal to reach. I tried to conduct the activity of analyzing spontaneous spoken discourse in my class as the book mentioned. I intended to find some solid rules for students to follow when they did daily conversations, like what part of conversation could be omitted and in what situations should fillers be used. Then I found it was so difficult to exhaust all the possibilities and students were not able to remember all the rules and then carry them on. So I just played record to them and asked them to pay attention to the features of spontaneous talk. And then I gave them an assignment to overhear some native speakers’ talking and focused on the “ungrammatical” but natural part. By doing this, they got a general idea of how a natural conversation should be like, even though they still couldn’t do it themselves. At least they had awareness and they would be willing to try on their own.