

Critique of Dr. Jon Peha's Presentation

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Dr. Jon Peha, a professor from Carnegie Mellon University, gave a presentation entitled *A New Era in Spectrum Management* at UIC this Thursday. Generally speaking, I think it can be considered well performed. Unlike many other professors who are talented in academic but cannot do it right in giving lectures, Dr. Peha acquires expertise in both. In this critique, I will first talk about all the aspects that Dr. Peha handled pretty nice in my opinion, followed by discussing some considerations of improving the quality of presentation to an even higher level.

The first advantage of this presentation is that it had a clear structure and thus made the points of the presentation easily located and understood. After briefly introduced some knowledge that we need to know to understand the terms and acronyms, Dr. Peha started his discussion using a traditional (and classic) chronological structure. Since the audience of this talk is not exclusively from the specific area of communication research, a chronological structure is not only the best and straightforward way to organize material, but also the most logical way to let the audience know how related research started, how this topic involved, what is our current issue and what possibly the future of this area will look like. Even though there are limitations on which kinds of applications can be benefited from this scheme, it cannot stop this idea of using help from radar to utilize spectrum in a better way being labeled as brilliant and promising.

Besides the content of the presentation, Dr. Peha did a very good job in delivering it as well. He kept eye contact between him and the audience all the time during his speech, and he's voice kept in a loud-and-clear state in the whole seminar. Usually, we consider eye contact as a reflection of respect and self-confidence. And that is exactly what Dr. Peha showed to us. Unlike many other professors who are good at academic but not in giving speech, Dr. Peha knows how to attract the attention from the audience. He was apparently very familiar with (and enthusiastic about) the topic he was talking about in the presentation, and he really hoped to share his knowledge with his audience.

Even though this presentation has many advantages, it still has some space for improvement. The first disadvantage of this presentation is that the speaker was speaking in a rapid speed. This reflected that 1) Dr. Peha was immersing into his talk and 2) how passionate he is, both of which are good and necessary personality to be successful in whatever a person do. But actually it is not a good idea to speak too fast when giving a presentation, especially when a good proportion of people in the audience are not native English speakers. This is also a common mistake a lecturer would make when giving presentation. Talking in a proper speed is not only a reflection of the speaker's consideration for the audience, but also to maximize the effectiveness of this presentation by making it easier for the audience to understand. Dr. Peha was working for President Obama in last few years. President Obama gives speeches in a very decent pace.

The other aspect that might be improved is the slides Dr. Peha was using. For most of the slides, too much content was placed in each, making it difficult for the audience to follow. By using 'content', I basically mean 'text content'. The other slides used in this seminar, although not much in quantity, were quite decent, with some figures and a little text in it.

To summarize, I do think Dr. Jon Peha's presentation was a success. He is passionate and professional, his presentation successfully but imperfectly delivered what he wanted to the audience.