

Viewpoints

Prof. Chan Shui-duen on Her Winning Consultancy Project

The project “Provision of School-based Support in the Learning of Chinese Language for Non-Chinese Speaking (NCS) Students at Primary Level” led by Prof. Chan Shui-duen, Interim Head of the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies, and her team including Dr Leung Wai-mun, Dr Yuen Chun Wah, Dr Zhu Xinhua, Miss Ma Hakwan Helen and Ms Zeng Jie, won the “Most Valued Project” award at the PolyU Technology & Consultancy Company Limited’s (PTeC’s) Outstanding Professional Services Awards 2015. It is recognised as a project with the highest contract value (HK\$5.18 million) for the financial year. With contribution of this project, CBS also won the “Highest Growth” award in terms of consultancy income.

Commissioned by the University-School Support Programmes of Education Bureau, this project aims to develop a progressive curriculum framework for the learning and teaching of Chinese Language in the partner schools based on their needs to facilitate the transition of their NCS students from kindergartens to primary schools and from primary schools to secondary schools. Apart from developing the curriculum framework, the team will also provide support in constructing curriculum modes and learning contents, planning learning, teaching and assessment strategies, enhancing teacher’s capabilities, and establishing a professional collaboration platform for the schools.

“Building on the Department’s research niche areas including Chinese linguistics, language acquisition, teaching Chinese as a second language, we will construct a corpus to analyse the characteristics, modes and difficulties of NCS students in learning Chinese. We are confident in developing a comprehensive curriculum framework to enhance the Chinese learning and teaching of NSC students in our partnering schools.” Prof. Chan said.



Prof. Chan Shui-duen and her team receive the “Most Valued Project” Award from Ir Prof. Ping-kong Alexander Wai, Vice President (Research Development).



English@Work in Asia

The ELC MOOC, English@Work in Asia starts its second run on 9 May 2016. Listen to these four course participants about why you should register for the course!

Ruby Li (Hong Kong)

I think this course is really useful. The course material is updated and practical and gives me strong support in the job application process. I especially like the interviews with the industry professionals. As I might not have a chance to meet those experts in the real life, this course has provided me with a valuable opportunity to communicate with them. The online platform also provides a lot of flexibility for me. Thank you for arranging this useful course material for us. I hope my application to work at Deloitte is successful!



Tosca Mahardhika (Indonesia)

English@Work in Asia has been an awesome experience for my career journey. This edX course has taught me a lot about “recruitment hacks” and tips and tricks to be noticed by employers. I can’t wait to start Part 2 from English@Work in Asia! I’m sharing this interesting experience with my friends and encouraging them to join with me to get the opportunity to become a professional worker.

P.S. - I’ve applied for an engineering position through the course. I hope my application would pass through the screening and have an opportunity to join the company. Thank you so much.



Swirri Christina Aboringong (Cameroon)

I am Christina, a young college graduate from Cameroon. I was introduced to edX by a friend.

Recently, I completed an interesting course, English@Work in Asia: Job applications. It equipped me with skills in writing a CV and cover letter, creating an appealing online presence, and the use of action verbs when writing applications.

During the course, I learned how to confidently write a tailored CV and cover letter, highlighting my skills, for one of the jobs that was advertised in the course, as well as to other companies closer to me. Additionally, I've learned how to build a compelling LinkedIn profile. My chances of getting a job now have tremendously increased!



Lily Chau (Hong Kong)

As a final-year student, I am stressed out when finding myself a good job offer. This course helps me a lot, e.g. how to write my résumé. There are some features I really like about. First, the credibility, the course gathers comments from experts who are working in the real business world. Second, the flexibility, it is updated every week and allows us to catch up whenever it fits us. Third, interaction, the forum provides a really good platform for us to interact which I think is the most valuable part. All in all, I definitely will recommend edX MOOC, English@Work in Asia.



Register now for English@Work in Asia!



English @Work in Asia

Job applications

Part 1: <https://www.edx.org/course/english-work-asia-job-applications-cvs-hkpolyux-ewa1-1-1x>



English @Work in Asia

Job interviews

Part 2: <https://www.edx.org/course/english-work-asia-preparing-job-hkpolyux-ewa1-2x>

Highlights

Researching New Ways of Distinguishing New Synonyms in Chinese

Prof. Shi Dingxu, the now-retired and former Chair Professor of Chinese Linguistics and Head of Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies, was invited by the FH Newsletter Editorial Board to share his research story. Prof. Shi's research interests are on syntax, typology, language change induced by contact, interface between syntax and semantics, and pedagogical grammar of Chinese. His publications cover a wide range of topics on Chinese in these fields.



I have been searching in recent years for new ways to distinguish near synonyms in Chinese. In terms of methodology, an important feature of this line of research is to stay away from the self-reflection tradition of armchair linguists and rely mainly on large corpora for natural language data. Another feature is to adopt from contemporary syntax the process of proving a hypothesis with acceptable and unacceptable data.

A typical case is the distinction between the Chinese pair *changchang* (常常) 'often' and *wangwang* (往往) 'usually'. It is generally agreed that the two are frequency adverbs, a subcategory of temporal adverbs. The evidence often cited is that both express the quantity of events in a framework and are exchangeable in many sentences. There are, however, a few exceptions in which *changchang* cannot be replaced by *wangwang*. A usual explanation for this is that *wangwang* denotes the frequency of past or realised events and must be accompanied by expressions of time, condition or manner related to the past or some regularity.

The problem is that a number of cases were discovered recently that are exceptions to these exceptions mentioned above and the previous explanation became inadequate. I was attracted by this phenomenon and tried to find a better analysis that can account for all the cases, old and new. After searching several large corpora, over 28,000 sentences with *changchang* and 34,000 sentences with *wangwang* were found, and 2,000 of each were randomly extracted for comparison, of which the main item was whether the two adverbs were interchangeable and, if exchangeable, whether the original meaning was retained after the exchange. A clear pattern emerged after the comparison and the conclusion is that *wangwang* is a probability adverb expressing the speaker's evaluation of the proposition while *changchang* is an ordinary adverb indicating frequency only.

Highlights

Inscribe Journal Prepares for Issue 2



With an aim of nurturing and encouraging student writers, *Inscribe*, an e-journal of the English Language Centre (ELC), publishes outstanding undergraduate writing in a variety of genres. Issue 1 features seven works ranging from creative writing and project proposals to biographical and argumentative essays.

This summer the editorial team is busy working closely with student writers in preparation for Issue 2, to be launched in September 2016. The range of genres showcased in the journal continues to expand, reflecting the diversity of writing occurring in PolyU courses. Many of our published works come from the Cluster Area Requirements subjects with Writing and Reading Requirements, in which ELC teachers guide students through a process writing approach which includes two drafts, feedback and consultations.

You can support *Inscribe* by visiting our website (<http://inscribe.elc.polyu.edu.hk/>) and seeing first-hand the variety and creativity showcased in these high-quality works. You can help us by keeping an eye out for excellent student writing and writers, and referring them to Inscribe by our website or email: inscribe@polyu.edu.hk. Submissions are accepted year-round.

Outreaching

Winter English Language Programme for Students from Yokohama National University, Japan

Programme Coordinator: Anna Ho (Senior Lecturer, ELC) & Vivian Li (Teaching Fellow, ELC)



The Winter English Language Programme, specially designed for students from Yokohama National University in Japan, was run by the English Language Centre (ELC) in February to March 2016. A group of 20 students participated in this programme to enhance their English language skills, to develop their leadership potential as well as to raise their awareness and appreciation for the “East meets West” culture of Hong Kong. The two-week intensive programme focused on four different skills—socialising in English, attending meetings, developing promotional materials and giving persuasive presentations.

In addition to the English language programme, special activities and visits were organised for students to experience the dynamic culture and vibrant lifestyle of Hong Kong, for instance, visit to Hotel ICON, evening cocktail party, boat ride on Victoria Harbour as well as visit to Stanley market and Victoria Peak.

The programme was concluded with a farewell party and students all received a certificate from the ELC. Though the programme was coordinated by the ELC, the success of the programme would not have been possible without the support from PolyU student volunteers who helped in different activities and visits.



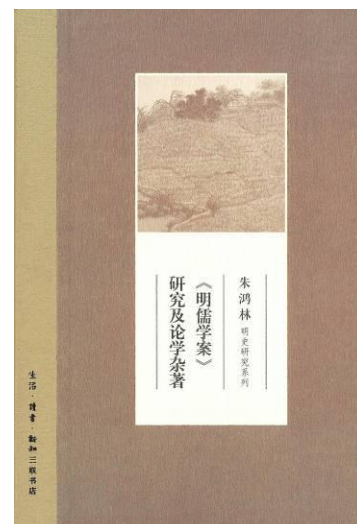
Outreaching

DALS Info Seminar in China

Dr Gail Forey (Programme Leader of DALS) and Prof. Christian Matthiessen (Chairman of the DALS Programme Committee) visited a number of universities in Guangzhou, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Xi'an and Zhuhai in the Chinese mainland to introduce the Doctor of Applied Language Sciences (DALS) programme during March and April 2016, and explain how DALS students would be able to integrate linguistic knowledge and research skills with reflective practice in coping with the demands and development of their careers as language professionals in the age of globalisation and digitalisation. Dr Xu Xunfeng, Associate Head of ENGL, also joined the visit.



Book title:	朱鴻林明史研究系列 — 《明儒學案》研究及論學雜著
Author(s)/Editor(s):	CHU Hung-lam 朱鴻林
Department:	Department of Chinese Culture 中國文化學系
Publisher:	SDX Joint Publishing Company 生活·讀書·新知三聯書店
Year of Publication:	2016
ISBN:	978-7-108-05431-9



Book title:	活用普通話 Huo Yong Putonghua (全新修訂版)
Author(s)/Editor(s):	Jane CHAN, <u>David YUEN</u> , Raymond CHOW
Department:	Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies 中文及雙語學系
Publisher:	Chung Hwa Book Co. 中華書局
Year of Publication:	2016
ISBN:	978-988-8394-00-5



For details, please visit the Publish & Flourish website: <http://www.polyu.edu.hk/fh/P&F/>.

Research & Scholarly Activities

External Grants Obtained by FH Staff

JAN - JUN 2016

Quality Education Fund

Project Title: An Integrated Chinese-learning Programme for Junior South Asian Students in HK
Principal Investigator: Dr Leung Man Tak, CBS
Funding Awarded: HKD1,315,600

Research Grants Council (RGC) - General Research Fund (GRF)

Project Title: The Critical Role of Communication in the Transition of Care of Elderly Patients from Acute to Primary Settings
Principal Investigator: Prof. Christian Matthiessen, ENGL
Funding Awarded: HKD814,500

Project Title: Secondary School Students' Cognitive Processing in Integrated Writing Tasks in Chinese (L1) and English (L2)
Principal Investigator: Dr Zhu Xinhua, CBS
Funding Awarded: HKD304,100

Research Grants Council (RGC) - Early Career Scheme (ECS)

Project Title: The Duration Effect in Perceiving Pitch Directions and its Interactions with Vowel Quality and Language Experience
Principal Investigator: Dr Chen Si, CBS
Funding Awarded: HKD435,200

Project Title: Investigating the Communication of Relationship-centeredness in Healthcare for the Enhancement of Patients' Satisfaction and Adherence to Treatment
Principal Investigator: Dr Lam Man Kit Marvin, ENGL
Funding Awarded: HKD415,496

Project Title: Imagining a Hong Kong Identity: A Study of Chinese Cultural Revolution Discourse in Hong Kong Newspapers and Journals, 1966-1976
Principal Investigator: Dr Leung Shuk Man, CC
Funding Awarded: HKD327,500

Project Title: Investigating the Optimal Mode of Input for the Acquisition of Second Language Formulaic Sequences
Principal Investigator: Dr Lin Ming Sum Phoebe, ENGL
Funding Awarded: HKD517,885

Project Title: Remapping World War II Memory through Commemorative Artifacts in Contemporary Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan
Principal Investigator: Dr Pan Lu, CC
Funding Awarded: HKD398,000

Project Title: Effect of Musical Disorder on the Neural Processing of Lexical Tone
Principal Investigator: Dr Zhang Caicai, CBS
Funding Awarded: HKD867,590

Research & Scholarly Activities

Research Interests/Outputs of New Academic Staff Members



Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies

Dr AYOYAMA Reijiro, Research Assistant Professor

Dr Reijiro Aoyama's research has focused on Japanese studies, transnationalism and Japanese migrant communities in China and East Asia. His research interests include business ethnography and anthropology of production, circulation and consumption, narratives of migration, media discourse and literacy, and language education. He has conducted several long-term ethnographies of the Japanese presence in China and Hong Kong, and has published on Japanese language education and Japanese diaspora in this region. He is currently working on a book about Japanese craftsmen working in East Asia, and how consumers and producers actively co-create the meaning of objects on the globalising market.

Before taking up his post at PolyU, Dr Aoyama taught Japanese language and culture at Fudan University and Tsinghua University, both in China, and the Community College of City University in Hong Kong. He received his BA in Japanese Literature from Waseda University, MA in Japanese Language and Teaching from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and PhD in Japanese Language and Literature from Peking University.



Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies

Dr Mehdi BAKHTIAR, Research Assistant Professor

Dr Mehdi Bakhtiar's research interest is related to the underlying mechanism of speech and language production in normal and clinical population. He is interested to investigate the psycholinguistic and sensory-motor theories of speech production in people with different communication disorders using the behavioural and EEG methods. One line of his research interest is in speech fluency disorders including the developmental and neurogenic stuttering and aphasia. He is also interested in developing assessment tools and treatment methods for people with communication disorders.

Dr Bakhtiar's previous research work was to understand the effect of age of the acquisition on mechanism of lexical processing across both normal and brain-damage population. He has published 12 research papers, some of which appeared in high impact journals such as *Journal of Neuropsychology*, *Journal of Neurolinguistics*, *Behavior Research Methods*, *Memory and Cognition* and *Journal of Fluency Disorders*.

Research & Scholarly Activities

Best Paper Award at 29th PACLIC

Miss Stella Yan Cong from the HK PolyU-PKU Research Centre on Chinese Linguistics received one of the two best paper awards in linguistics at the 29th Pacific Asia Conference on Language, Information and Computation (PACLIC) held in Shanghai (<http://bcmi.sjtu.edu.cn/~pacific29/>) on 30 October-1 November 2015. Her winning paper “The Invertible Construction in Chinese” was co-authored with Prof. Huang Chu-ren from the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies and Dr Lian-Hee Wee from Hong Kong Baptist University.

The PACLIC series of conferences emphasise the synergy of theoretical analysis and processing of language, and provide a forum for researchers in different fields of language study in the Pacific-Asia region to share their findings and interests in the formal and empirical study of languages.

In “Teaching and Learning in a Digital Age: The View from Harvard”, Prof. Peter K. Bol (Vice Provost for Advances in Learning, Charles H. Carswell Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Director of the Center for Geographic Analysis, Harvard University) talked about cyberinfrastructure for teaching and learning at Harvard University and how developments such as new library information systems are affecting Chinese studies and providing new means of teaching and learning.



“Teaching and Learning in a Digital Age: The View from Harvard” by Prof. Peter K. Bol from Harvard University.

Events

Renowned Scholar Prof. Yuan Xingpei Visited FH

Date of the event: 29 March 2016

Organised by: Faculty of Humanities

Prof. Yuan Xingpei, Professor of Department of Chinese Language and Literature at Peking University and Curator of Central Research Institute of Culture and History in China, visited the Faculty of Humanities on 29 March 2016. During his visit, Prof. Yuan discussed and shared his recent research works with academic staff members from FH units.



Prof. Yuan Xingpei, Professor, Department of Chinese Language and Literature, Peking University (front row, 3rd from right), Prof. Chu Hung-lam, Dean of FH (front row, 3rd from left) and Associate Deans and Heads from FH units.



Prof. Chu Hung-lam exchanges souvenirs with Prof. Yuan Xingpei.

Faculty Updates

2nd Meeting of the Faculty Advisory Committee

The 2nd meeting of the Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) was held on 9 March 2016. The Committee is chaired by Prof. Peter K. Bol (Vice-Provost for Advances in Learning and Charles H. Carswell Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University), with members Prof. Eva Hajičová (Professor of Linguistics, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University), Dr Louis C.W. Ng (Deputy Director, Leisure and Cultural Services Department of HKSAR), Prof. Michael Nylan (Professor, Department of History, University of California Berkeley), Prof. Gu Yueguo (Research Professor and Head of Contemporary Linguistics Department, The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences), and Dr Boping Yuan (Fellow and Director of Studies in Asian & Middle Eastern Studies, Faculty of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies Churchill College, University of Cambridge). Prof. Chu Hung-lam, Dean of FH, is the Convenor of the FAC.

FAC aims to provide a platform for the non-local and local academics, the industries, the professions and the community to advise the Faculty on its planning and future developments and identify opportunities in research and education for the Faculty.



(From left: Dr Louis C.W. Ng, Prof. Gu Yueguo, Prof. Michael Nylan, Prof. Peter K. Bol, Prof. Eva Hajičová, Prof. Chu Hung-lam (Faculty Dean of FH) and Prof. Chan Shui-duen (former Associate Dean of FH))

Student Corner

DALS Student's Publication in the International Journal *Text & Talk*

Cheng Meng Leo from the Doctor of Applied Language Sciences (DALS) programme has recently published his article in *Text & Talk*, an interdisciplinary journal of language, discourse and communication. The Newsletter has invited Leo to share his publication experience.

The acceptance of my paper “We should” vs. “We will”: How do the governments report their work in “One Country Two Systems”? A corpus-driven CDA of government work reports in Greater China by the international journal *Text & Talk* is both a great surprise and a long-struggling enterprise. The theoretical framework came out of the class assignment in the DALS course *Corpus Linguistics and Discourse Analysis* in 2013, and the assignment was submitted in early 2014. Prof. Martin Warren taught the course and set off the sparkles in his serious but quick-witted way. The paper, if read carefully enough, shows a huge influence of Prof. Winnie Cheng, who visited and lectured at my university in the Chinese mainland back in 2010. A beacon of light then set the direction for my joining of the DALS programme in Hong Kong. As a city with generosity, diversity and internationality, the journal article was written in tribute to Hong Kong.



Student Corner

Awards Received by CBS MA and PhD Students in National and Regional Contests

CBS student Ms Duan Jingyuan from the MA in Translating and Interpreting programme was awarded Certificate of Merit in English/ Chinese consecutive interpreting in the final of the 5th All-China Interpreting Contest which was held in Beijing on 4–5 June 2016. All-China Interpreting Contest, a yearly event held by Translators Association of China (TAC) and China Translation & Publishing Corporation (CTPC), is one of the most influential interpreting competitions in China since it was first launched in 2010.

Ms Yu Jing, a CBS PhD student, won second prize in the thesis contest of the First Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Postgraduate Forum on Foreign Languages and Translation in Zhuhai on 12 June 2016.

The forum has received 103 submissions from postgraduates who are studying in the fields of linguistics, applied linguistics, translation studies and foreign literature from universities in Hong Kong, Macao and Guangdong, including the University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, City University of Hong Kong, Lingnan University, Macao University, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, South China Normal University and Jinan University, to list a few.



CBS PhD student Yu Jing gives her presentation in the thesis contest.

Student Corner

Inauguration Ceremony of the 3rd PolyU CBS Translation Society

The inauguration ceremony of the 3rd PolyU CBS Translation Society was held on 19 February 2016. The Society aims at providing a platform for all members to further improve their translation and interpreting skills by taking up translation jobs or internships and attending various workshops or seminars organised by the Society.





Editorial Board

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