

ENGLink

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Highlights

- ▶ **P.2 Summer Programme for Local Secondary School Students**
- ▶ **P.4 Academic Staff and PhD Students Participated at the WC2 2016 Summer Symposium**
- ▶ **P.6 WIE Book Prizes for Students with Outstanding WIE Performance**
- ▶ **P.7 Overseas Internships**

English Summer Camps Co-organized with Esquel-Y.L. Yang Education Foundation

The Department has been collaborating with the Esquel-Y.L. Yang Education Foundation to provide English teaching in English Summer Camps in Mainland China for the past few years. The aim of the English summer camps is to help motivate the local primary students in China to learn English and to enhance their English proficiency. During the summer of 2016, Dr Cathy Wong and Dr Phoenix Lam coordinated with the Foundation to recruit 17 student volunteers from the BA in English Studies for the Professions (BAESP) programme to teach English in three summer camps in Turpan (Xinjiang), Guilin (Guangxi), and Gaoming (Guangdong) in China. Three of the student volunteers shared their experience below:

“ Never did I dream of going to Xinjiang - a place the media has described as a very dangerous place with bombs and knives everywhere. Instead, it is a place where you would definitely want to revisit again in your life. Spending time with children allows you to be your truest self; visiting different world heritage sites broadens your horizons; and the most important thing is - leave your footprints all over the world before settling down. ”

Claudia Fong, Year 3 BAESP student



“ During this summer in August, I participated in a summer camp which was jointly organized by PolyU and Esquel. I taught as an English teacher in a Guilin primary school. It was an amazing experience in which I met many amazing people and it has broadened my horizons. I have learnt much from my students and colleagues and witnessed various weaknesses in the contemporary educational system. The experience made me a more mature, considerate and intelligent person. ”

Walter Choi, Year 4 BAESP student

“ This summer, I went to the Esquel English Summer Camp in Gaoming and taught English there. It was the first time for me to teach primary school kids in a classroom. The most challenging thing was to use both Putonghua and English for teaching. This trip offered me a valuable opportunity to improve my language skills, as well as interacting and building relationship with primary students. It was definitely a rewarding and unforgettable teaching experience. ”

Julie Tang, Year 3 BAESP student



Summer Programme for Local Secondary School Students (11 – 12 July 2016)

The Department organised a one-day summer programme on both 11 and 12 July, and 37 students from 30 secondary schools participated. They gained a lot of hands-on experience and interesting knowledge about how to be an effective communicator in English through three practical workshops, namely **“Modern fashionable language in English”**, **“Gendered language through love letters”** and **“What makes a good PowerPoint presentation – A hands-on experience”**. A sharing session was also arranged where two students from the BA in English Studies for the Professions programme talked about their study experience.



At the PowerPoint presentation workshop, students were able to practise the skills they learnt in a group presentation.

More than 95% of the participating students found the activities interesting and enjoyed the programme very much. They also indicated they would recommend the programme to their friends.

The event is part of the PolyU Summer Programme 2016, which has been coordinated by the Secondary School Relations Section (SSRS) since last year. The aim of the programme is to promote PolyU and its undergraduate programmes to local secondary school students.



Students enjoyed the lively teaching and practical activities at the workshops given by Ms Angela Tse (eighth from right).

Orientation Events for the New Academic Year

The Department arranged two orientation activities to help students to make a smooth start for the 2016-17 academic year:

1 MA Programmes Orientation Day (3 September 2016)

About 80 new MA students took part in this afternoon activity. They first attended an individual programme introduction session by the corresponding Programme Leaders, followed by a common briefing session where the students learnt more about the Academic Support Programme, auditing of subjects, study pathways in the Department, etc. Associate Head Professor Stephen Evans then explained research degree opportunities in the Department. The last session was a library orientation session and the students were introduced the use of various resources available to them in the library.



Associate Head Professor Stephen Evans (left) and MA Scheme Leader Dr Li Lan explain the various aspects of our MA programme to the new students.

2 Programme Orientation for BA Students (5 September 2016)

New students of BA in English Studies for the Professions were given an introduction to the programme curriculum structure and study pathways during the orientation. The students were also briefed on different programmes available to them during their study including overseas exchange, service learning, and Work-Integrated-Education (WIE). They were also able to meet the academic staff who will be teaching them in the coming three years.



Academic staff have a chance to talk to the new students at the orientation session.

Departmental Seminars

1 Metaphor, metonymy and meaning making in visual images (14 September 2016)

With main research interests in multimodal discourse analysis, cognitive linguistics, language education, etc, Dr William Feng of our Department discussed his study using a social semiotic approach to investigate how conceptual metaphors and metonymies are realised in visual images. Based on the social semiotic visual grammar of Kress and van Leeuwen (2006), systems of metaphor and metonymy are proposed to elucidate the metaphorical and metonymic nature of visual meaning construction. This study extends current theories of multimodal metaphor/metonymy in cognitive linguistics on the one hand, and provides a useful tool to complement the social semiotic analysis of multimodal discourse on the other.



2 Grammar, Lexis and Text in the Construction of Multimodal Discourse (21 September 2016)

In this talk, Professor Zhang Delu from the School of Foreign Languages, Tongji University, Shanghai explained that multimodal texts are realized by choices from different semiotic systems, but the exact nature of that choice can vary greatly from text to text. Firstly, semiotic systems are divided into two-level systems and three-level systems. However, the so-called two-level systems are actually a lexis-only three-level system and are eventually unified into the same framework with the three-level systems. Secondly, through the analysis of multimodal image texts, it is found that texts of different compositions in terms of choices from different modes should be analyzed differently. Prof. Zhang concluded that multimodal texts should be analyzed in ways that are appropriate for their composition in terms of the roles of different modes in realizing the multimodal texts.



3 Intercultural communication in the workplace: challenges for newcomers (30 September 2016)

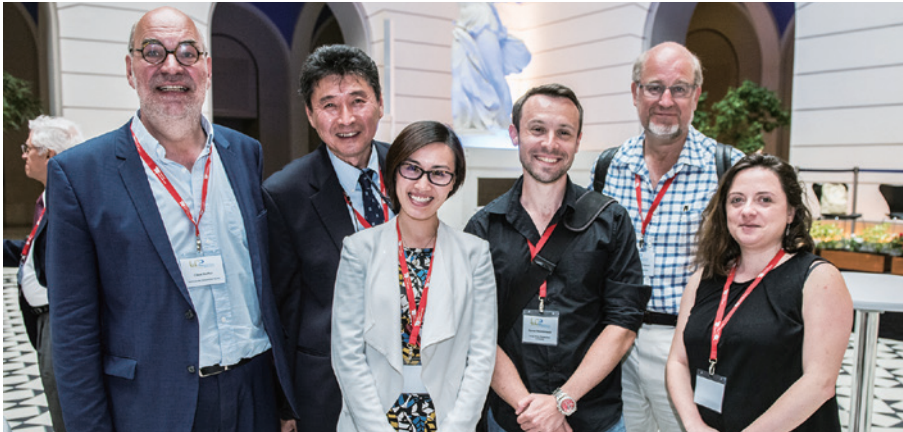
As an academic with publications focused on workplace discourse and language and gender, and many topics within pragmatics and discourse analysis, including intercultural communication, Professor Janet Holmes from the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand introduced the concept of the "culture order" in this seminar. She used the analysis of New Zealand workplace discourse to illustrate how the culture order impacts on intercultural interaction. She also discussed how the research of the Wellington Language in the Workplace Project team has been used to assist new migrants as they enter the New Zealand workforce.



4 The power of language – the language of power (30 September 2016)

Since society has never distributed its blessings fairly or equitably, it is no surprise that manifestations of linguistic access and recognition have historically favoured some groups more than others. Professor John Edwards from St Francis Xavier University, Canada discussed this notion at the seminar by comparing the views from Bill Mackey, a Canadian specialist in bilingualism, and John Stuart Mill, one of the most influential thinkers in the history of liberalism. After looking into some changes in ideas and earlier conceptions, Prof. Edwards explained that in terms of power, we might say that linguistic clout (or the lack of it) is now seen to rest upon social bases: it is not really a matter of language at all.





(From right): Esterina Nervino, Prof. Christian Matthiessen, and Daniel Recktenwald represent the Department at the symposium and have a fruitful exchange with the participants on different urban issues.

Discussing the Role of Universities as Urban Actors at the WC2 2016 Summer Symposium

Professor Christian Matthiessen and PhD students Daniel Recktenwald and Esterina Nervino of the Department participated in the second annual WC2 Summer Symposium at the Technische Universität Berlin in Germany from 8 – 12 August. *The World Cities World Class University Network (WC2)* is a collaboration of 11 universities from the Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa and the symposium featured 140 participants, half of them students, from a variety of disciplines. The diversity was connected to the five theme groups: Business, Eco-campus, Global Cultures, Global Health, and Transport which discussed the role of the University for achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The three delegates of the Department attended pre-symposium virtual meetings to conceptualize, plan and realize a project. The project by Daniel and Esterina was a photo essay that highlighted the difficulty of defining the notion of the 'Global University'. In their case study, they pointed out the disjunction between student's expectations and experience at internationalised Universities.

Additionally, each delegation highlighted the particular strengths and weaknesses of their city. For Hong Kong, the groups pointed

out the problem of expensive housing, low levels of public welfare and the extremely competitive education system. On the positive side, the work group pointed out the excellent access to health care facilities, efficient public transport and low unemployment.

The symposium was an excellent event for all participants. It allowed students to contribute and share their local experience and subject specific expertise in the context of a larger and important project. It was a truly global and interdisciplinary learning opportunity.



Esterina and Daniel discuss the group project with team members from other WC2 member institutions.

BAESP Student Appointed as PolyU Student Ambassador

BAESP Year 4 student Mariah Chan is appointed as a PolyU Student Ambassador for the year 2016-17. In addition to representing PolyU in different outreach activities like Info Day, and the Congregation, Mariah will assist in promoting the University through sharing her campus life and study experience with secondary students and members of the public. She will showcase a positive image of PolyU students as being cheerful, sincere, confident and dynamic. The programme is organised by the Academic Secretariat (AS) and 20 students from different academic departments were elected as Student Ambassadors in this academic year.



Mariah receives the appointment letter from Professor S.L. Ho, Associate Vice President (Academic Support) and Academic Secretary.

Recent Research Publications

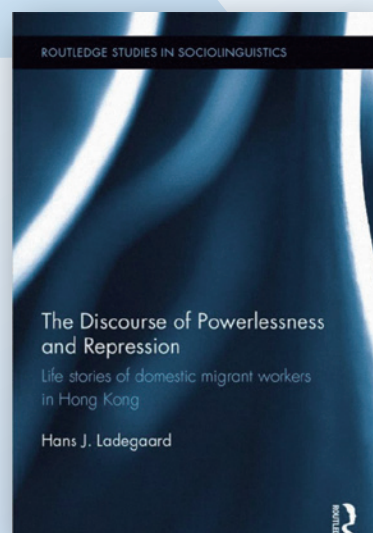
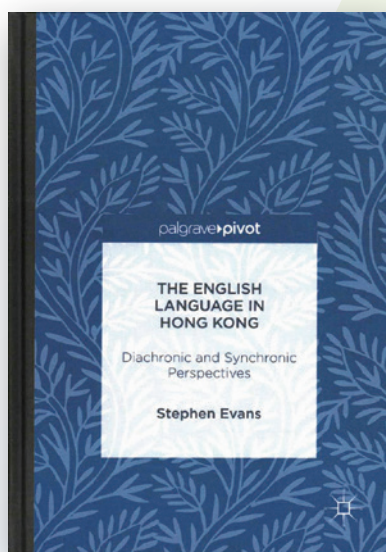
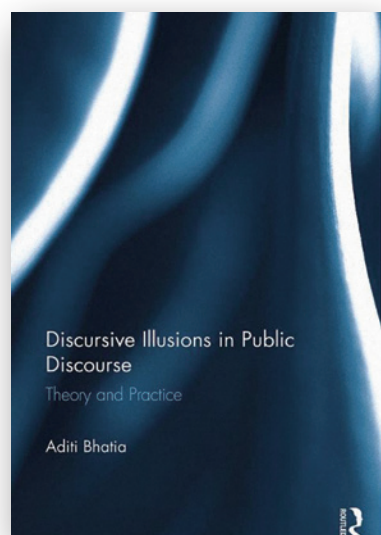
Bhatia, A. (2015). *Discursive Illusions in Public Discourse: Theory and Practice*. London & New York: Routledge.

Chan, S. L. A., and F. H. Yap (2015). "Please continue to be an anime lover": The use of defamation metaphors in Hong Kong electoral discourse. *Journal of Pragmatics* 87: 31-53.

Evans, S. (2016). *The English Language in Hong Kong: Diachronic and Synchronic Perspectives*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

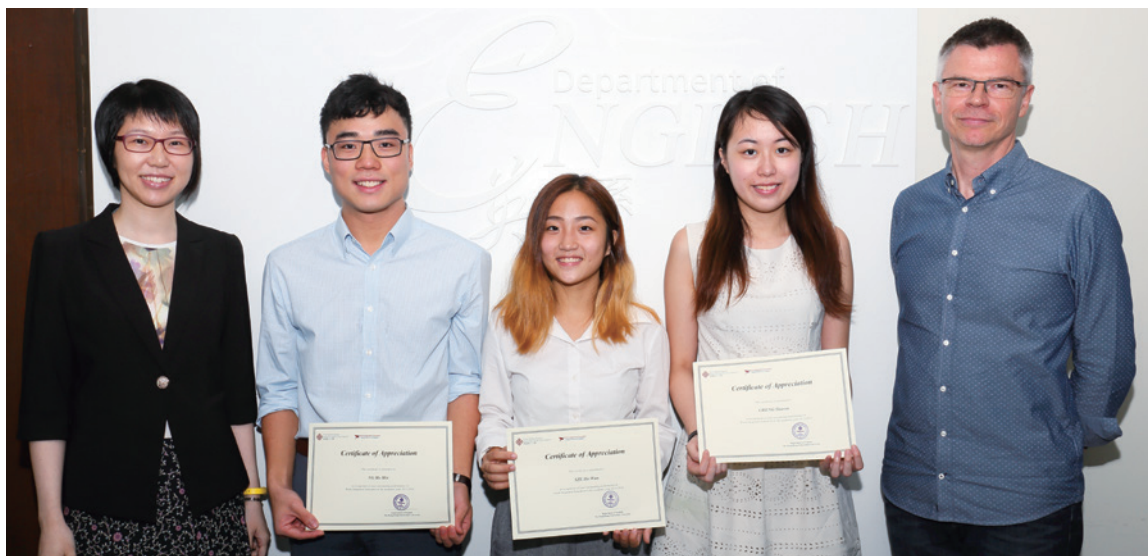
Ladegaard, H. J. (2016). *The Discourse of Powerlessness and Repression: Life Stories of Domestic Migrant Workers in Hong Kong*. London: Routledge.

Tay, D. (2016). A variational approach to deliberate metaphors. *Cognitive Linguistic Studies*, 3(2).



WIE Book Prizes for Students with Outstanding WIE Performance

The Department of English awarded three book prizes to three BAESP students with outstanding WIE performance in 2015-2016. The awardees shared their internship experiences below:



From left to right: Dr Clarice Chan (WIE Coordinator), Linus Ng, Gwyneth Sze, Sharon Cheng, Prof. Hans Ladegaard, Head of the Department

Linus Ng, Year 4 BAESP student

“ Working at the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) in Singapore was a very fruitful experience. I had the opportunity to broaden my international perspective by being exposed to the work of various industries in the ASEAN region. I took part in the research of Hong Kong’s role in the ‘One Belt, One Road’ initiative and facilitated the initial operation of the new HKETO in Jakarta. This internship enabled me to become more knowledgeable about the economic and socio-cultural environment in ASEAN. After this internship, I have definitely become more confident in taking up challenges in the increasingly globalised world. ”

Gwyneth Sze, Year 3 BAESP student

“ I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to work with the International Affairs Office at PolyU from October 2015 to April 2016. My colleagues and supervisor not only helped me to improve my writing skills but also taught me a lot about effective communication. I have always been passionate about writing and this internship has definitely helped me improve my writing skills, and at the same time built up my confidence and interests in writing. Doing an on-campus internship allowed me to gain a sense of belonging to the university and a better understanding of ways to promote PolyU. ”

Sharon Cheng, Year 4 BAESP student

“ As an English major student, I never thought of working as an intern in AIA International Limited, an insurance company. I worked as a clerk for a financial planner and her team. I had much paper work to do and many files to update every day. Sometimes, I had to contact other departments for their help when I dealt with cases of claims and applications. I am very grateful to my mentor for giving me the opportunity to handle various tasks. I used to think that, in financial companies, everyone is just thinking of making money, but I found in AIA that the staff there got along with each other very well. Overall, I had a great experience in the company and a totally different impression of office work. ”

Overseas Internships

Last summer, many of our BAESP students had their WIE placements in organizations overseas or in Mainland China. These placements helped them to gain experience of working in different fields and to understand the workplace ethos of other cultures.



Katrina Lam worked as a summer intern at the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, San Francisco, United States



Carrie Cheung worked as a summer intern at the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Berlin, Germany



Samantha Lui (first from right) worked as a content development intern at Language Your Way Pty Ltd, Melbourne, Australia



Toby Lo worked as a teaching assistant at AIESEC Košice, Slovakia

Students and Alumni News



Maymay Chung worked as a marketing assistant for Singapore Airlines through the general sales agent AVIAREPS in Moscow, Russia



Jessica Liu worked as a marketing trainee in NeXtime, the Netherlands



Angel Lam worked as an editor and reporter at the China National Radio, Beijing, China



Gwyneth Sze (first row, first from right) worked as an intern at AIESEC Brno, the Czech Republic