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Hong Kong English words in the *Oxford English Dictionary*

In May our Associate Head Professor Stephen Evans and Dr Danica Salazar from Oxford University Press gave a talk on the *Oxford English Dictionary's* (OED) inclusion of *dai pai dong* and other Hong Kong English (HKE) words in its March 2016 update of new words, phrases and senses. The introduction of these words, which was widely reported and discussed in the local media, reflects the traditionally Brito-centric OED's wish to expand its coverage of world Englishes in its new edition.

The selection and documentation of the words in the March 2016 update was based on collaboration between Stephen and Dr Salazar while he was on sabbatical leave at the University of Oxford in the second half of 2015. Stephen's historical research into the HKE lexicon helped Dr Salazar, a Consultant Editor at the OED, to identify words worthy of inclusion in the new edition of the dictionary. This research is based on several sizeable corpora of English in Hong Kong, including a 91-million-word corpus of Legislative Council proceedings (1858 – 2012). Dr Salazar drew on these corpora when preparing illustrative quotations for the HKE entries (see entry for *shroff*).

In the first part of the talk, Dr Salazar gave a detailed account of the development of the OED since the mid-nineteenth century and a fascinating insider perspective on the process of selecting, defining and documenting new entries. In the second part of the talk, Stephen gave an overview of his research into the HKE lexicon, including the diachronic databases and corpora he has shared with the OED, and outlined plans for further collaboration between the OED and the Department.

The 90-minute presentation was attended by ENGL staff and students, academics from our sister institutions as well as representatives from the local and international media (the talk having been publicised by the OED in a press release about the March update). International interest in this initiative was reflected in Dr Salazar's appearance on BBC World News on 13 May and in a feature article to appear in the *Los Angeles Times*, which was informed by an in-depth interview with Stephen.

DRAFT ADDITIONS MARCH 2016

Hong Kong English. A cashier, esp. at a car park.

Categories »

1973 *Sunday Post-Herald* (Hong Kong) 29 Apr. 23/3 (*advt.*) Assistant cashier. Collecting shroff. A leading public company has a vacancy for a young man of integrity to work in the cash department.
1978 *Hong Kong Legislative Council: Official Rep. Proc.* 9 Aug. 1281 The Commissioner of Transport..is prepared to recruit about 20 disabled people to..act as shroffs in car parks.
2000 *Profession* (Mod. Lang. Assoc. Amer.) 65 Here, one speaks of 'shroffs', which means a cashier at a parking lot.
2006 *South China Morning Post* (Hong Kong) 29 July 12 It is a source of endless fascination to newcomers to Hong Kong to observe types of employment in the city rarely seen in other parts of the world. Where, away from here, would you come across a shroff, for example?

(Hide quotations)

Event Highlights

The 4ᵗʰ International Symposium and Roundtable on Healthcare Communication (27 – 28 June 2016)

This is the second time that the growing network of the International Research Centre for Communication in Healthcare (IRCCH) came to Lugano, Switzerland to discuss issues related to "Communicating For Patient Safety: Translating Research Into Practice". IRCCH is jointly convened and supported by the PolyU and the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), with Curtin University playing an institutional node.

On 27 June, over 20 speakers from around the world presented their latest research on healthcare communication at the Symposium. They shared and discussed innovative practices, educational strategies, and cutting edge research that effectively promoted patient safety, skilled communication, attention to core values, and compassionate care in healthcare settings around the world.

Prof. Matthiessen (right) and Dr Marvin Lam from the Department converse about the key motifs from the roundtable discussion.

Over 30 members participated in a mini-roundtable on 28 June to discuss the latest research ideas from different parts of the world and further research collaborations on healthcare communication. Professor Christian M.I.M. Matthiessen, Director of IRCCH (PolyU), Professor Diana Slade (UTS) and Professor Peter Schulz (University of Lugano) led the discussion on various topics of the latest development of IRCCH in terms of international, cross-national research proposals and the development of training materials and professional education. Members formulated strategic plans on working collaboratively in different areas under healthcare communication in the next two years.

Open Day Mini-Lectures and Open Day Workshop for MA Programmes (25 & 29 June 2016)

The Department's MA programmes organised two Open Day events in June to allow prospective students to understand how they can become a highly effective professional communicator by studying our programmes.

An Open Day Mini-Lecture events was held on 25 June which included three mini-lectures on different areas of language learning. The topic of the first one was "Language Acquisition" and was given by Dr Nicholas Sampson, Programme Leader of the MA in English Language Studies. The second one was conducted by Dr Marvin Lam, Programme Leader of the MA in English Language Arts, on "Explaining Grammar beyond Rules". Dr Li Lan, Programme Leader of the MA in English Language Teaching, was responsible for the last one under the theme of "Lexical study: New words in English".

On 29 June, our Associate Head, Professor Stephen Evans and Professor Martin Warren, Programme Leader of the MA in English for the Professions, jointly gave an Open Day Workshop on the topic of "Strategic Professional Communication". The workshop introduced strategies for handling challenging professional communication tasks such as criticising others and making difficult requests using real world examples.

The two events were attended by over 60 participants and many of them have shown further interest in our MA programmes.

Dr Li Lan explains to the participants how new words are formed during her mini-lecture.

Prof. Stephen Evans (left) and Prof. Martin Warren answer queries from the participants during the Q&A session.

6th HAAL Conference (11 June 2016)

The Department of English has been giving full support to the Hong Kong Association for Applied Linguistics (HAAL) in organizing activities and seminars for applied linguists and also frontline teachers in Hong Kong. As Secretary of HAAL, Dr Mable Chan from the Department plays a prominent role in carrying out the administrative and liaison work involved.

On 11 June 2016, HAAL organized a one-day biannual conference at PolyU. Over 150 researchers and teachers in the area of applied linguistics took part in the conference which provided an opportunity for them to report on research, explore ideas, update themselves on current developments and, in general, share their professional interests with others in a friendly and informal atmosphere.

Professor John Flowerdew from City University of Hong Kong gave a keynote speech on *Some recent corpus-based approaches to researching and teaching academic discourse*. Another keynote speech entitled *From research to practice: Intervening in the learning of L2 study abroad students* was delivered by Professor Jane Jackson from the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

A highlight of the conference was the special session on Kongish and Hong Kong English. With *Positioning Kongish in Hong Kong English: A case study of Kongish Daily* as the topic, Founders of Kongish Daily Mr Nick Wong, Mr Alfred Tsang and Mr Pedro Lok explored how 'Kongish' has emerged as a type of Hong Kong English (HKE) within the HKE continuum, and how people perceive 'Kongish'. Dr Katherine Chen from the University of Hong Kong acted as the discussant during the session.

Dr Mable Chan (first row, left) and other organising committee members of the 6th HAAL conference.

Departmental Seminars

1 Anatomizing Chinese Populace's Power in Guanxi Discourse (5 May 2016)

The mainstream of critical discourse analysis (CDA) has been preoccupied with State Power, Political Power, and the Party's Power. These are powers with a big P. Professor Gu Yueguo, Director of China Multilingual & Multimodal Corpora and Big Data Centre discussed another sort of power that is generally left out is power with a small p, viz. populace's power. In this talk, he examined the dynamic process from interactional engagement to dependency, from dependency to resources, and from resources to the creation of power. He explained that such transformation is the mechanism that underlines the populace's power with a small p. He also used the practice of Guanxi (關係), as a part of everyday life among Chinese communities, to demonstrate the populace's power in action.

2 Telling stories in academic research: making the commonsense uncommonsense (20 June 2016)

With a research focus on Systemic Functional Linguistics studies of academic discourse, Dr Sue Hood from the University of Technology Sydney explained that the telling of stories has become a highly valorized dimension of academic knowledge building. Stories once told in academic research papers have been re-instantiated into a powerful discourse of uncommonsense knowledge. They are made to mean in relation to different fields, different tenor relations, and different modes. In this talk, Dr Hood explained this transition and discussed how the commonsense is made uncommonsense and how a story becomes an academic knowledge practice.
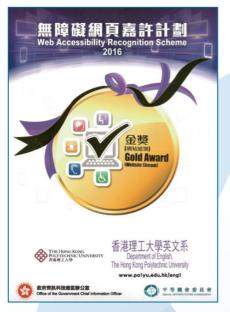
Department Updates

Departmental Website Receives Gold Award in Web Accessibility Recognition Scheme 2016

The Department's website has received the Gold Award under the Web Accessibility Recognition Scheme 2016 jointly organised by the Office of Government Chief Information Officer and the Equal Opportunities Commission. Our revamped website was launched in July 2015 and with the support from the Information Technology Services Office (ITS), our website has fulfilled the 24 judging criteria to be eligible for the Gold Award. We are the first academic department in PolyU to receive this award.

The other four PolyU awardees of the Gold Award are the websites of the PolyU, ITS, the Pao Yue-kong Library, and the University Social Responsibility Network. At the same time, the websites of the Health, Safety and Environment Office (HSEO), the Office of Careers and Placement Services (CAPS), and the PolyU Green Concepts were presented with the top-tier Triple Gold Award.

This scheme was started in 2013 with the purpose of encouraging organisations to adopt an accessibility design in their websites and mobile apps. This not only allows everyone, including disability groups, to access information and services online, but also helps to promote business development and build an inclusive society.

Featured Speaker in MELTA Conference (30 May – 1 June)

Dr Mable Chan was invited by the 25th Malaysian English Language Teaching Association (MELTA) conference to be a featured speaker in one of the featured talks on 31 May 2016. She represented the Hong Kong Association for Applied Linguistics (HAAL) and gave a talk entitled *The Role of Pedagogical Intervention: Acquisition of Tense by Cantonese ESL Learners in Hong Kong*. Some of the findings of this talk were generated from her GRF research project. In the featured talk, Dr Chan shared with the audience the difficulties/challenges faced by Cantonese ESL learners in acquiring the simple past tense, what processing instruction is, and how it might help Cantonese ESL learners map both the form and meaning in acquiring the simple past tense.

The 25th MELTA conference discussed and deliberated on the issue of 21st Century Learning in English Language Education. It featured ELT professionals sharing innovations in sustainability directed policies, pedagogies and learning systems that are geared towards developing 21st century literacies and learning skills. This event has brought together education policy makers, practitioners and scholars to engage and collaborate with colleagues from around the world to solve key problems in the world of ELT and education.

A book on the theme of '21st Century in English Language Education' will be published with a key publisher and Dr Chan was invited to submit a book chapter on this theme.

Research

HKD1.7m Granted for Research Projects

In the June announcements for the 2016/17 General Research Fund (GRF) / Early Career Scheme (ECS) by the Research Grants Council (RGC), the Department was awarded about HKD1.75 million for three research projects. Congratulations to Professor Christian Matthiessen, Dr Marvin Lam, and Dr Phoebe Lin as the principal investigators of the projects. This encouraging result will further drive us to excel in our research work!

1. Project title: The Critical Role of Communication in the Transition of Care of Elderly Patients from Acute to Primary Settings

Principal Investigator:	**Professor Christian Matthiessen**
Co-investigators:	**Professor Diana Slade, University of Technology Sydney**
	Dr Elizabeth Rider, Harvard University
	Professor Elena Semino, Lancaster University
	Professor Albert Lee, Chinese University of Hong Kong
	Dr Simon Tang, Hong Kong Hospital Authority
	Dr Angela Chan, School of Nursing, PolyU
	Dr Marvin Lam, Department of English, PolyU
Approved duration:	**24 months**
Funding awarded:	**HKD814,500**

The project will identify and enhance key components of the effective exchange of diagnostic and discharge information between clinicians and elderly patients, during patients' transitions of care from an Accident and Emergency Department (AED) to an associated AED Outpatient Clinic (AEDOC). The project focuses on elderly patients because this group represents the largest demographic group within Hong Kong (HK) AEDs and elderly patients are particularly vulnerable to adverse events and poor health outcomes. This will be a mixed methods project to collect complementary data, both qualitative (e.g. video/audio-recorded observations, interviews) and quantitative (e.g. rating of clinician and patient interactions and the Patient Activation Measure) that enable triangulation in the analysis. We will document and analyse the actual AED clinician-patient discharge consultations and the same patients' consultations in the AEDOC to examine the effectiveness of the patients' transitions of care. Supplementing discourse analysis, we will deploy other investigative strategies (e.g. interviews and surveys) to clarify the barriers and risks in communication during discharge and transfer from acute (AED) to primary (AEDOC) settings.

2. Project title: Investigating the communication of relationship-centeredness in healthcare for the enhancement of patients' satisfaction and adherence to treatment

Principal Investigator:	**Dr Marvin Lam**
Approved duration:	**24 months**
Funding awarded:	**HKD415,496**

This project aims to identify the communicative features relevant to relationship-centeredness and explicate them through a detailed linguistic analysis of patient-practitioner interactions to track accumulative changes of their relationship in patient journey at hospital accident and emergency departments (A&Es). A&Es are particularly interesting research sites because relationships are complex due to the environmental features of A&Es, such as patient anxiety levels and practitioner workloads. The analytical framework adopted has been tested in other institutional contexts such as narrative studies and professional communication at call centres, addressing the relationship as an accumulative entity instead of a 'snap shot' of communication strategies. Furthermore, this project will also examine the relation between relationship-centred care and patient's satisfaction and adherence to the treatment plan, so as to develop a model of relationship-centred communication throughout the patient journey to enhance care outcomes.

Research

3. Project title: Investigating the optimal mode of input for the acquisition of second language formulaic sequences

Principal Investigator: Dr Phoebe Lin
Approved duration: 24 months
Funding awarded: HKD517,885

In the eyes of many English-as-a-foreign-language (EFL) learners, *nice and easy* is just the same as *easy and nice* or *fine and easy*. They are indeed different because *nice and easy* is formulaic, while the alternatives are not. This intuitive discernment of formulaic sequences (FSs) (such as *nice and easy*, *spick and span*) is surprisingly difficult even for advanced EFL learners. This project tests whether the dominance of written input in many English language syllabi may be one of the causes of EFL learners' struggles with learning English formulaic sequences. In the experiment, EFL learners will be randomly assigned to acquire formulaic sequences from one of three modes of input (i.e. written, spoken with natural prosody and spoken with word-by-word prosody). Their FS knowledge gains post-treatment will be compared while controlling for variability due to individual differences in verbal processing ability (i.e. phonological short-term memory capacity, vocabulary size and prosodic sensitivity) and L2 proficiency. This project will bring new directions to second language FS pedagogy and offer an empirical basis for deciding the relative proportions of spoken versus written input in many Asian EFL syllabi.

Recent Research Publications

Ahn, M. and Yap, F.H. (2015). Evidentiality in interaction: A pragmatic analysis of Korean hearsay evidential markers. *Studies in Language 39*(1), 46-84.

Evans, S. (2015). Modelling the development of English in Hong Kong. *World Englishes*, 34(3), 389-410.

Li, L. (2016). Impoliteness and non-politeness in workplace emails written by Chinese users of English. *Globe: A Journal of Language, Culture and Communication*, 3, 64-77.

Tay, D. (2016). Finding the middle ground between therapist-centred and client-centred metaphor research in Psychotherapy. In M. O'Reilly & J. N. Lester (Eds.), *The Palgrave Handbook of Adult Mental Health* (pp. 558–576). London: Palgrave Macmillan.