The sixth Undergraduate Conference

Language Linguistics and Literature

英文系
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

香港恒生大學
THE HANG SENG UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

The 6th Undergraduate Conference on Language, Literature and Linguistics

Department of English

Hang Seng University of Hong Kong

Date: 17 May 2021
Time: 13:30-17:30 (Mon)
Venue: MS Teams

HEAD'S MESSAGE

I congratulate all the final-year students for having completed their senior projects. The titles of this year are diverse and relevant. In the literature stream, two projects examine gender representations in novels and films (Malala Yousafzai's *I am Malala* and Superhero movies). One project explores the ethical relation between villains and evil in American cinema (*Joker* and *No Country for Old Men*). Another one asks to what extent the heroine can be reread from the point of madness in Lewis Caroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. In the language stream, we have Shirley Leung analysing Donald Trump's political speeches. Two projects engage in various topics in second language acquisition. Two projects research on code-switching in the local context. Finally, a project compares the backchannel responses in computer-mediated communication across three different languages.

All these topics are closely related to our students' everyday lives. In fact, the senior project has been designed as a platform for students to rethink a topic of their own interests from a critical perspective. It is our hope that they can synthesize their knowledge in literature and language and present their thoughts convincingly to the readers. The undergraduate conference is organized for intellectual exchange. Presenting one's own paper aside, please do not forget to pay attention to other presentations and socialize with other speakers. Looking back, my most interesting memories about attending conferences are rarely created out of my presentations themselves but the conversations I held with other speakers before and after.

The presentations represent the peak of many months of hard work and devotion. It should be taken seriously. But at the same time, you should learn how to appreciate the effort you have made in the last 8 months and take this occasion as a celebration of your big achievements. I assume you will all be

graduating several months later. In the near future, I look forward to seeing you in the Department's corridor, listening to your anecdotes, and learning how new endeavours have made you grow again.

Dr Paul Fung
Associate Professor
Head, Department of English

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the proceedings of the 6th Undergraduate Conference on Language, Linguistics and Literature.

'April is the cruellest month', it is the time of separation when our senior students are about to leave their university. It was just like yesterday when I was preparing our first ever, unprecedented online undergraduate conference – but now, online learning and virtual conferences have become our new normal – we are getting ready for our second online conference.

2020-21 continues to be a challenging year for everyone in the world. For our final year students, 3 semesters of online learning is definitely one of the strangest learning experience and it may not be an ideal way to end their university life; however, in these 1.5 years, students have discovered new strategies to cope with their studies and beat all odds. I am impressed by how much they have learnt and grown in spite of these challenges. Our students respond fast to the migration to new technology and they use digital technology as a coping tool for their studies. These projects are therefore the evidence of our young scholars' adaptability and resilience.

This year, the conference is continuing the string of success of the Department of English and it is featuring 10 outstanding research presentations from a wide range of topics.

So, April (and May) is not that cruel after all: It is the bloom time when our students showcase their projects and accomplishments. Congratulations to all our students for their achievements!

Dr Catherine Wong, Conference Organiser and Editor

THE 6th UNDERGRADUATE CONFERENCE ON LANGUAGE, LINGUISTICS AND LITERATURE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

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PROGRAMME

Conference opening ceremony 13:30 – 13:45

Panel 1: Monday 17 May 2021, 13:45 – 15:05

Curtis Chow
The Evolution from Feminism in Literary Works to Feminist Heroism in Modern Superhero Movies

Tiffany Ip
Madness in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*: Alice's 'Mad' Experience in Girlhood

Raz Lai
The Development of Muslim Women's Identity in *I Am Malala*

Joseph Lo
From an Aristotelian Perspective: The Relation between Villains and Evil in *Joker* and *No Country For Old Men*

Panel 2: Monday 17 May 2021, 15:10 – 16:10

Hilda Ho
Code-Switching by Hong Kong Students: Comparing Online and Face-To-Face Modes of Communication

Vanessa Lam
Factors Affecting South Asian's Acquisition of Chinese in Hong Kong: An Exploratory Study

Crystal Lung
Investigating the Factors Affecting the Motivational Patterns of Hong Kong Secondary School Students with Different Cultural Backgrounds and Genders: A Mixed-Methods

Panel 3: Monday 17 May 2021, 16:15 – 17:15

Tiffany Law
The Integration and Influence of Code-Mixing in Hong Kong Culture and Identity

Shirley Leung
Analysis of the Persuasion Strategies of Donald Trump in 2016 and in 2020

Wendy Shek
Effects of Computer-Mediated Communication on Backchannel Responses: A Comparison across Cantonese, English and Japanese

Curtis CHOW

The Evolution from Feminism in Literary Works to Feminist Heroism in Modern Superhero Movies

Feminist heroism is the one of the recent study that has a close relationship with femininity as it focuses on depicting the greatness of female hero characters. In the past centuries, females have been seen as co-existence under the obligation of males regarding the demonstration of patriarchal society. Not only females were dehumanized and discriminated against, but their potentials were being suppressed due to their gender. As a result, the feminist movement broke out eventually as a means for achieving true gender free-bias society. In the process of the second-wave feminist movement, many literary works have been produced in the names of several famous feminist activists, and this leads to an ebullition of female voices and opinions, hoping to fight for their human rights. Meanwhile, the movement has also fostered another movement known as goddess movement which emphasizes the roles of goddess religion and the importance of goddess worshipping. Therefore, it is wise to highlight the movement as the most significant motives that lead to the great success of the whole feminist movement. In the present days, females have gained so much more personal rights that are comparable to males. Yet, feminists are trying the best to remind the world the hard work of the past female activist and to treasure the desirable outcome that females have now. In addition to their ambition, they continuously develop all sorts of ways in maintaining the influence, which includes the creation of refined and civilized characters in modern history. In general, female hero characters like Captain Marvel and Wonder Women have become the symbolic representation of the idealistic and optimistic role models across the world. As a result, it facilitates the development of female hero movie production so as to promote the essential embodiment of femaleness within female protagonists.

Keywords: Feminism; Goddess Revolution; Feminist Heroism

Hilda HO
Code-Switching by Hong Kong Students: Comparing Online and Face-To-Face Modes of Communication

Code-switching is a common phenomenon in Hong Kong. Previous studies on code-switching in Hong Kong laid emphasis mainly on bilingual code-switching between Cantonese and English with specific context: Li (2000)'s study on context-specific motivations found in Hong Kong Chinese press, and Lam (2010)'s study on code-mixing in online chats. However, there is limited research on comparing bilingual code-switching between Cantonese and English in both face-to-face and online modes of communication as well as reasons behind. Little is also known about the practice of trilingual code-switching, which according to Chan (2018) resulted from the introduction of Putonghua in the school curriculum. This study reported on Hong Kong secondary and university students' practices of code switching among Cantonese and English in face-to-face communication and online contexts as well as similarities and differences in motivations behind code-switching in both occasions. It also explored a rising form of trilingual code-switching in Hong Kong. Both quantitative and qualitative data were used. Survey data was collected from fifty-five Hong Kong students, including five secondary school students and fifty university students. To take an in-depth look into the motivations behind code-switching among Cantonese and English in both face-to-face and online contexts, conversational data were collected and semi-structured interviews were held with one purposefully chosen university student. The results showed that code switching between Cantonese and English is still the dominant form among Hong Kong students and their tendency to code-switch more in online contexts. The study also showed similarities and differences in the motivations behind code-switching in both online and face-to-face situations. It further unveiled new and re-defined motivations in both face-to-face communication and online contexts, including making jokes with friends and personal factors. This study also identified the new practice of trilingual code-switching as well as underlying reasons.

Keywords: Code-Switching; Hong Kong Students; Online Chats; Face-to-Face Communication; Motivations

Tiffany IP

Madness in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*: Alice's 'Mad' Experience in Girlhood

This study focuses on the representations of madness in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (Alice's)* and the role madness plays in Alice's growing process. The investigation covers the perspectives on females' identity of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865), and Tim Burton and Linda Woolverton's movie adaptation *Alice in Wonderland* (2010) *& Alice Through the Looking Glass* (2016). It also looks into the use of madness in Disney's *Alice's* animation (1951) as a reference (in children's fearfulness of madness). Females who violated the social norms were often diagnosed as mentally deficient in the Victorian era. They were shattered by oppression and male dominance. Burton and Woolverton have made adjustments to the original story in order to demonstrate the significance of madness. In order to uncover Carroll's, Burton's and Woolverton's interpretations of madness, this study first investigates the general idea of madness and how it transforms into a humiliating accusation of women. It then discusses its connection with Alice's identity formation. Finally, the study analyzes the influence of being mad on Victorians' girlhood. The ultimate goal of this study is to argue the essentiality of madness in *Alice's*. Being mad is a possible assistance in acquiring freedom as Alice redefines her identity and gains liberty through the use of her insanity.

Keywords: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland; Female Hysteria; Gender relationship; Girlhood; Madness; Victorian Era

Raz LAI
The Development of Muslim Women's Identity in *I Am Malala*

This study discusses the development of Muslim women's identity. Female identity formation is hugely affected by the environment. In the case of Islamic culture, women are especially confused and struggle to identify themselves against the account of stereotypes across the globe, leading to identity crisis that they lose themselves whilst they are not allowed to receive any education. *I Am Malala*, is chosen as the subject of this study of women's identity construction since this memoir involves the discussion of subjectivity and education which are crucial to one's identity construction. This study aims to analyse the formation of female identity through examining how the power of education brings about the possession of subjectivity of women, as well as the change of the status of women in the world, especially in Pakistan. It then highlights how education gives women the authority and ability to play the role of the writer. It also investigates the notion of authorship in connection with the importance of education. By uncovering the process of Malala's construction of her identity, the results of this study can reveal the influence of education power, self-actualisation and the relationship between authorship and education.

Keywords: Malala; Memoir; Subjectivity; Female Identity; Education

Vanessa LAM

Factors Affecting South Asian's Acquisition of Chinese in Hong Kong: An Exploratory Study

Research shows that it is difficult for ethnic minority students to learn Chinese as a second language in Hong Kong (Ke & Tucker (2015). Despite previous research on this topic (Lai, Gao & Wang (2015)), there is a lack of qualitative research on the different factors affecting ethnic minority students' learning of Chinese and the connection between the factors. To fill the research gap, this case study examined in particular Hong Kong's South Asian community as they make up the largest percentage of the ethnic minority population. It investigated in depth the various factors affecting South Asian students' learning of Chinese and how these factors were interlinked. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with three purposefully chosen participants to answer the research question. The study found that South Asian students' families and their schools affected their learning of Chinese the most. It became obvious that the parents wanted their children to be proficient in Cantonese in order to integrate better into the Hong Kong society and be able to find better jobs. The support that the school provides to both the teachers and the students is constitutive; if the student does receive enough support, then they will be able to go further than having basic grasp of Cantonese. Pedagogical implications have been provided regarding how to enhance South Asian students' learning of Chinese in Hong Kong.

Keywords: Learning of Chinese as a Second Language; South Asian; Hong Kong

Tiffany LAW
The Integration and Influence of Code-Mixing in Hong Kong Culture and Identity

Cantonese and English have had a close relationship since Hong Kong was a British colony. Until now, Hong Kong speakers are used to inserting English words into Cantonese sentences in communication, regardless of the formality of settings. The phenomenon is generally known as code-mixing. This paper examines the phenomenon of code-mixing in Hong Kong and how it becomes an integral part of Hong Kong culture and speakers' identity. In this study, 10 video clips were observed and analyzed, which reveal the common code-mixing patterns of Hong Kong speakers. The behavior of code-mixing is widely shared by Hong Kong speakers. They agree that code-mixing is an indispensable element of Hong Kong Cantonese. They even take pride in the behavior of code-mixing and name their spoken language as '香港話'. Hence, code-mixing has become a key cultural marker of Hong Kong identity. It creates a unique value to Hong Kong Cantonese and excludes Hong Kong speakers from other Cantonese speakers. Therefore, the behavior of code-mixing reveals that Hong Kong speakers have a strong metalinguistic awareness and Hong Kong identity which connects them interdependently with the society of Hong Kong.

Keywords: Code-Mixing; Identity; Metalinguistic Awareness; Subconsciousness; Cultural Taboo

Shirley LEUNG
Analysis of the Persuasion Strategies of Donald Trump in 2016 and in 2020

The former U.S. President Donald Trump uses audience identification, honorific pandering, transparency, and shrewd control of a vulnerable political sphere in most of his speeches. In this study, rhetorician Kenneth Burke's cluster criticisms and Ernest Bormann's fantasy-themed criticisms are utilized as theoretical frameworks to analyze the U.S. former president Donald Trump's overall rhetorical themes in his rally speeches during the U.S. Presidential Campaign 2016 and 2020. Using a quantitative approach, 117 speeches delivered by candidate Trump were analyzed in terms of word frequency and collocations. The corpus data were then processed to identify different clusters and strategies through recurring key terms, such as "we", "American" and "jobs". This analysis provides context as to how persuasive Trump has been, and what kind of strategy he uses. The critical lens is provided to help interpret his rhetorical strategy and message for his audience. This study also discovers how Trump constructs discourse to present a reality for his audience that frames his ideology, following Bormann's fantasy-themed criticisms. Through this analysis, we learn how politicians persuade their audiences to create shared reality, and why Donald Trump has been a unique figure in US politics.

Keywords: Donald Trump; Cluster Criticism; Fantasy-Themed Criticism; Rhetorical Strategy; Persuasion

Joseph LO

From an Aristotelian Perspective: The Relation between Villains and Evil in *Joker* and *No Country For Old Men*

No Country for Old Men (2007) and *Joker* (2019) present iconic antagonists who offer a memorable impression for their audiences. In their respective movies, both antagonists perform a series of actions which would conventionally be considered as morally wrong. However, especially in the movie *Joker*, audiences have expressed sympathy towards the antagonist and consider his actions as morally justifiable. In order to compare and determine to what extent and in what ways the actions from the antagonists are morally permissible, this project will use Aristotelian *Virtue Ethics* to compare the behaviour and moral value from two antagonists. The essay examines the extent to which Aristotle and two antagonists have the same ethics. Furthermore, it examines the applicability of *Virtue Ethics* on two cinematographic worlds. This comparison will display the similarity or difference between Aristotelian ethics and the moral value held by two antagonists. It also raises another essential argument related to the principle of their ethics. If their ethics are reasonable and morally justifiable, their actions should be judged separately from the Aristotelian ethics. It serves a room for debate, from the perspectives of *Virtue Ethics* and ethics generated by the antagonists, whether or not they should be considered as evil.

Keywords: Aristotle; Virtue Ethics; Evil; Golden Mean; Society

Crystal LUNG

Investigating the Factors Affecting the Motivational Patterns of Hong Kong Secondary School Students with Different Cultural Backgrounds and Genders: A Mixed-Methods

Motivation plays an important role in affecting students' language learning. Most of the empirical studies focus on investigating L2 learners' motivation for English learning in the face-to-face mode (Wong, 2010, 2014). However, limited research has been conducted in the Hong Kong context to investigate L2 students' motivational patterns in both face-to-face and online modes as well as factors affecting their motivation. This study explored the motivational patterns among the upper secondary school students in Hong Kong with different cultural backgrounds (i.e., local born Hong Kong students and newly arrived Hong Kong students) and genders as well as identified factors affecting students' learning motivation. Exploratory sequential mixed methods design was applied in the study. A questionnaire, which included 7 open-ended questions and 57 close-ended questions, was distributed to 102 upper Hong Kong secondary school students to understand how they think about the roles of learning content, teachers, peers and parents in affecting their learning motivations as well as their suggestions on enhancing English learning motivation.

Face-to-face interviews were then conducted with 5 students with different motivational levels in order to enrich the quantitative results. The findings showed that peers and teachers influenced students' learning motivation the most while parents influenced the least in both groups. But newly arrived Hong Kong students tended to have lower learning motivation in the learner level. Moreover, there were no significant differences found between males and females. At the end of the paper, there are six implications provided according to the findings.

Keywords: English Learning Motivation; Local Born Hong Kong Students; Newly Arrived Hong Kong Students; Gender Differences; Contextual Influence

Wendy SHEK

Effects of Computer-Mediated Communication on Backchannel Responses: A Comparison across Cantonese, English and Japanese

This paper aims to discuss the effects of computer-mediated communication (CMC) on the usage of backchannels across Cantonese, Japanese, and English. A 20-minute video clip was extracted from Instagram lives in each of the target languages. The interactions in these CMC-conversations are coded and analyzed. By comparing our data with previous studies on backchanneling in face-to-face (FTF) contexts, we investigate how the three languages differ in frequency, variations as well as turn-taking behaviors across FTF and CMC contexts.

The findings reveal that verbal CMC backchannels increased among three languages, compared to the levels previously reported on FTF conversations. While several types of verbal backchannels are displayed more frequently by Japanese speakers, for non-verbal signals like head nods and gestures, Cantonese and English data show a higher number in CMC than in FTF. We also observed that the use of verbal backchannels are in a negative correlation with the use of non-verbal backchannels, where different speech communities have their own backchannel preferences. Turn-taking behaviours are less-organized in a CMC context, as evidenced by higher numbers in silences and overlaps. Moreover, conversations are more disrupted due to the rise in verbal backchannel production. These indicate that CMC presents various differences in backchanneling and affects the communication pattern in general. More broadly speaking, the findings in this study will enhance our understanding of strategies in communication both within and across cultures.

Keywords: Computer Mediated Communication; Backchannels; Cantonese; English; Japanese

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BA in English Programme

Class of 2021

Senior Project Presentations