

24 May 2013

2:00pm – 2:45pm

Room A607

Roundtable Title: Crossing the Divide: Injecting Linguistic Creativity into Academic Writing

Presenters: Geff Heathman, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Lucas Kohnke, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Abstract

From formulaic expressions of purpose to standardized structural statements and (besides) the ever so prominent and overly used cohesive connectors, academic writing can clearly develop and deliver a given message. Such writing functions well and it achieves a given purpose, yet it can be so drab. In this roundtable discussion we shall discuss the unleashing of a more creative use of language, within the strict confines of academia, which may transcend the status-quo and revitalize academic writing without upsetting the grand expectations of the English teacher. Would injecting linguistic creativity (rich description, parallel structures, alliteration, anaphora, metaphor, metonymy, hyperbole, irony...) into academic writing help create texts that flow beyond function, have a greater range of language, and have enhanced coherence? Or, would confusion reign?

Biodata

Geff Heathman is an Instructor at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and has taught English in Asia for 20 years. His current interests include professional development, curriculum design, assessment, and process writing. His past research has focused on fostering learner autonomy, multimedia design and communication, and collaborative learning environments.

Lucas Kohnke is an ESL Instructor at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Lucas has presented at numerous national and international conferences on e-learning, social platforms, grammar and teacher training in Asia and the Middle East. His current interest includes teacher professional development using ICT, leadership in language education and intercultural communication.