

**26 May 2014**

**11:10am – 12:00pm**

**Room A302**

**Roundtable:           The interface between fiction and non-fiction genres  
for developing writing skills at university**

**Leader:**                     Dr Hazel Chiu, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

**Discussion:**               <http://todaysmeet.com/wrthc>



**Abstract**

Mainstream university language courses in Hong Kong are mostly academic or discipline-related (e.g. academic English, workplace English, English for specific purposes). They aim to develop essential language skills for work and study. Text-types students need to master are usually from the non-fiction genres, such as academic essays, business correspondence and workplace reports. However, course materials for developing writing skills sometimes go beyond these conventional writing genres to include other genres which employ fictional writing strategies, such as journalistic and literary writing. This discussion will explore the benefits and pitfalls of using fictional genres to facilitate the development of writing skills, as well as the types of writing assignment/assessment/practice useful or suitable for university students.

The following are possible questions for discussion:

1. To what extent is the exposure to fictional writing genres beneficial to students?
2. What types of text-types/genres are useful or suitable for developing university students' writing skills?
3. What types of writing assignment/assessment/practice are useful or suitable to university students?
4. Why is plagiarism an increasingly serious problem at university?
5. What types of approaches to writing support or feedback are most useful?

**Biodata**

Hazel Chiu teaches language courses at the English Language Centre, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Her professional/research interests include reading and writing, grammar teaching and learning, task-based language teaching, the use of language arts materials for language teaching, and independent language learning.