

Wednesday 3 June

12:00 - 12:40pm

Room: Block Y, Room Y303

Presentation Title: Our Words or their Words? Soothing the Hoarse and Giving Voice to the Voiceless

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Theme:	Developing life-long learners
Presentation Type:	Paper presentation

Abstract

This paper will briefly outline an approach that aids L2 learners acquire and produce accurate and fluent written and spoken English (lexis and collocation, syntax, pronunciation and intonation). It also assists teachers to move beyond classroom exhortation and proofreading slavery to more effectively promote and monitor language acquisition. It makes use of a suite of language learning tools and resources, is grounded in SLA theory and is modeled on the habits of effective language learners.

The approach uses techniques of corpus analysis and data-driven learning as well as traditional task-based methods to encourage language learners to appropriate the language of more experienced writers and thereby acquire their own voices. By providing learners immediate access to relevant resources, it also frees teachers to provide guidance without having themselves to appropriate the learners' attempts at communication. It makes learners more responsible and holds them accountable for what they learn and produce.

The techniques can be integrated into motivational classroom materials and provide a powerful mechanism for life-long language acquisition and confident production.

The suite of tools ('My Words') that support this approach have been undergoing continuous development over several years at a Hong Kong university, and have become integral in the syllabi of several English language programmes.

Biodata

John Milton has been a teacher and administrator of EFL programmes for 30 years. For the last 20, he has been developing language learning technology. This technology uses a variety of approaches: from grammar instruction to discovery-based lexical methods and DDL techniques. It is currently implemented in a comprehensive information system that aims to enhance teaching and promote independent, life-long learning.