

Friday 5 June

3:20pm - 4:00pm

Room: Block Y, Room Y403

Presentation Title: Developing autonomy and oral English proficiency through cooperative learning groups

Presenter / Co-presenters:	Lily Guo, Foreign Language School, Shenzhen University
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Theme:	Autonomy in the classroom
Presentation Type:	Paper presentation

Abstract

This study presents a description and evaluation of a project which aims at developing students' oral English proficiency and autonomy by cooperative learning in small groups. The necessity for organizing such a project stems from a sharp decrease in classroom contact hours and a nationwide College English reform in the mainland of China prioritizing listening and speaking abilities. The subjects are 180 non-English majors attending their second-year College English Course at Shenzhen University. The project involves learner strategy training in the classroom, weekly self-study sessions in Language Learning Centers and out-of-class oral practice/ peer-assessment in small groups. Evaluation of the project will be chiefly based on students' journals and a survey at the end of the semester. Possible gains include better study skills, increase in motivation, interest and time spent in practicing oral English and also some improvement in holding discussions on specific topics covered in the course.

Biodata

Lily Guo has been an Associate Professor of English since 2000, and an MA supervisor since 2002. Her major research interests are language testing and computer-assisted language instruction. She has published 10 research papers in key academic journals in China. She has also obtained 5 research grants in recent 7 years, including "Computer-assisted Oral English teaching" financed by the Ministry of Education of China in 2005 and "Promoting Listening and Speaking Skills through Independent Learning Center" by the Department of Education of Guangdong Province in 2007. She was Dean of College English Department in Shenzhen University from 2003 to 2006 and Director of the Oral English Testing Centre from 2002 till now.