

Wednesday 3 June

2:20pm - 3:00pm

Room: Block Y, Room Y302

Presentation Title: Attention: Electronic Discourse!

Presenter / Co-presenters:	Irina E. Averianova, Nagoya University of Commerce and Business, Japan
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Theme:	Autonomy and teacher education
Presentation Type:	Paper presentation

Abstract

Technology has become a powerful vehicle of independent learning of foreign languages, English in particular, thanks to unlimited resources of the Internet and advantages of computer-mediated communication (CMC). ESL students and teachers patronizing the Net, however, need to be aware of a specific language perpetuated in CMC, electronic discourse, the conventions of which are quite different from the Standard English encountered in traditional, non-electronic settings. Earlier (ILAC 2007) I addressed the need to teach electronic discourse to help students maintain meaningful and effective interaction while participating in e-mail, chatroom, discussion board or other formats of CMC. Recent developments in the language-technology reality show that there is yet another side of electronic discourse that teachers need to be aware of - an increasing penetration of electronic discourse in students' academic writing. Since metalinguistic awareness is one of the abilities constituting learner autonomy, it is essential that students know not only how but also where to use electronic discourse appropriately. The presentation addresses this problem and emphasizes the need for teachers to critically reflect on the phenomenon of electronic discourse and its place in overall language competence expected in an autonomous learner.

Biodata

Irina E. Averianova is Associate Professor of English at Nagoya University of Commerce and Business Administration, Japan. She holds Doctor of Education from Teachers College, Columbia University, USA, and Ph.D. in Linguistics from Kiev National University, Ukraine. Prior to her appointment in Japan, she worked as a researcher at the Institute on Education and the Economy, Columbia University, USA, taught English and conducted research in universities of Ukraine, Bangladesh and China. Her research interests include electronic discourse analysis, education, translation, and CALL and are extensively presented in numerous publications and conference presentations.