

3:50pm - 4:30pm

Block Y, Room Y302

Presentation Title: A bottom-up approach in developing curriculum outcomes and assessment criteria

Presenter / Co-presenters: Mrs Roxanne WONG, City University of Hong Kong
Dr Eva LUI, City University of Hong Kong
Dr Nigel HUCKSTEP, City University of Hong Kong
Ms Emma BRUCE, City University of Hong Kong

Abstract

In outcome-based teaching and learning, constructive alignment between curriculum outcomes and assessment criteria facilitates student learning and promotes positive backwash. With younger first year students entering the university from 2012, learner diversity issues need to be addressed properly while maintaining the alignment between curriculum outcomes and assessment criteria. An initiative to address the issue in a bottom-up approach was implemented at City University of Hong Kong. The target is to provide a bank of student samples indicating a range of language proficiency levels. By sharing the performance descriptors among course developers, material writers, assessment developers, course coordinators, teachers and students, all stakeholders will have the same samples to refer to when setting or interpreting standards and/or outcomes. The availability of empirically confirmed performance descriptors allows learners at different language proficiency levels to be given more accurate guidance on their language needs while maintaining standards among teachers and across courses. In this presentation, the latest version of the sample bank, and, how the performance descriptors were compiled and used in course development and setting assessment criteria will be shown. Usefulness and limitations of the approach will also be discussed.

Biodata

Roxanne Wong is part of the team developing the new assessment criteria for the ELC at City University. Her interests include assessment and helping students become more independent learners.

Eva Lui is an associate head in the English Language Centre at the City University of Hong Kong where she oversees assessment matters of the Centre. She is currently involved in an exemplar collection project to achieve better standard maintenance in their courses.

Nigel Huckstep teaches associate degree, undergraduate and postgraduate courses in the ELC at the City University of Hong Kong. His research interests include the application of post-structuralist thinking about language in general and in qualitative approaches to Discourse Analysis in particular. He is keen supporter of self-directed learning and of student empowerment while considering direction and input from teachers an essential part of the language learning process.

Emma Bruce has been working in the English Language Centre of City University since September 1997. Her professional interests include language testing and assessment and teacher education.