

2:45pm - 3:25pm

Block Y, Room Y302

Presentation Title: English in Dentistry: Challenges in assessment of writing

Presenter / Co-presenters: Dr Lisa CHEUNG, The University of Hong Kong
Dr Yvonne LOONG, The University of Hong Kong
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Abstract

Critical to the success of any outcome-based learning module is the alignment between assessment methods and learning objectives, usually realised through appropriate assessment rubrics. Fourth-year dentistry students at HKU are required to conduct a Community Health Project to demonstrate their all-round ability, bringing together their professional knowledge and their investigative, interpretative, organizational, language and teamwork skills to produce research reports. Detailed assessment rubrics were developed collaboratively by the Centre for Applied English Studies and the Faculty of Dentistry in the pilot of an English in the Discipline (ED) course, which offered parallel language support to students during the research process. This paper discusses the procedure we took to develop, revise and try out the rubrics, which yielded a multi-category description of what constitutes quality work from the language and discipline perspectives. While teachers in general agree that these rubrics facilitate provision of useful feedback to students and allow for consistency of marking final written reports, beyond the trial stage, the criteria were used by only the language teachers. It remains to be explored whether the assessment criteria could serve further purposes in co-assessment, a challenge to be jointly achieved by the Centre's and the Faculty' teachers on the ED course.

Biodata

Lisa Cheung is currently working in the Centre for Applied English Studies, the University of Hong Kong. She received a PhD in Applied Linguistics from the University of Birmingham (UK). She has been actively involved in the teaching of a range of undergraduate English enhancement courses on academic and professional communication. The courses spread across faculties such as Arts, Chinese Medicine, Dentistry, Journalism, Law Nursing and Social Sciences. With a strong interest in CALL, she has extensive experience in developing web-based learning resources and their integration with classroom teaching. She serves on the Editorial Team of Hong Kong Journal of Applied Linguistics.

Prior to joining the Centre for Applied English Studies (CAES) in HKU, Yvonne Loong has worked as a lecturer in the National University of Singapore (NUS) where she was mainly involved in coordinating and teaching the English for Academic Purposes (EAP) course, the Basic English Proficiency course and the higher level English for Specific Purposes (ESP) writing course called Critical Thinking & Writing tailored specially for students in the Engineering Faculty. She has also worked in the Language Centre of Hong Kong Baptist University and Department of English in City University of Hong Kong where she was engaged in teacher training and other modules like Academic Writing for BA TESOL

students.

Tse Lai Kun has been teaching English for academic and profession communication courses to students of various disciplines, including medicine and dentistry. She has also developed and co-developed a number of course webs and online resources. Her current research interests focus on English for specific purposes (particularly English for medicine), clinical writing, student discourse and student learning.