

**Wednesday 1 June**

**2:15pm - 2:55pm**

Block Y, Room Y303

**Presentation Title:** Incorporating collocation knowledge learning into new language courses for 2012

**Presenter / Co-presenters:** Mr Simon Burfoot, Lingnan University

### **Abstract**

This presentation will begin with a brief review of recent research in SLA which is giving indications of the importance of collocation knowledge and performance to users of second languages. For example, a learner-corpus study by Jiang (2009) revealed that Chinese learners of English make target-like but too frequent use of a small number of high-frequency collocations along with a number of non-target-like collocations. The subjects also showed a low awareness of collocation learning resources and a strong focus on learning decontextualized individual words. With such findings in mind, this presentation will show how collocation awareness and knowledge training will be featured in new integrated language courses being developed at Lingnan University CEAL for 2012.

The presentation will briefly explain how collocations are extracted from the teaching materials of each course unit and then compared with the COBUILD Bank of English for significance and frequency. The presentation will then show some examples of these collocations and show how they are included in a Language Summary at the end of each unit. An overview will then be given of both activities focusing on collocations included within the units and accompanying self-access collocation training activities. These courses will be piloted in Autumn 2011 and it is hoped the inclusion of this collocation focus will enhance students' awareness and knowledge of English collocations and in turn enhance their language proficiency.

### **Biodata**

Simon Burfoot currently works as a Senior Language Instructor at Lingnan University's Centre for English and Additional Languages where he is involved in developing new language courses for 2012 and writing items for the DELTA project. Simon taught in Public Universities in Mainland China for 8 years before coming to Hong Kong, developing particular interest in vocabulary acquisition and the teaching of reading and writing for academic purposes. He is currently reading for his PhD in Applied Linguistics with the Vocabulary Acquisition Research Group (VARG) at Swansea University. The focus of his research is the acquisition of vocabulary and collocation knowledge and their impact on language proficiency among Hong Kong and Mainland Chinese learners of English at tertiary level.