



TGIF 10 (Sem1, AY2019-20): The NTU Linguist Chat Room Seminars

September 20 – Lim Ni Eng

**The interdisciplinarity of Linguistics, Communication and Medicine:
How language use improves healthcare delivery and outcome?**

Based on video-recordings of first-visit consultations in a Singapore hospital's Urology clinic, I will demonstrate how the intersubjective understandings (or gaps of understanding, even misunderstanding) through a sequential turn-by-turn analysis of the verbal interaction between doctors and patients crucially impacts vital components of delivering healthcare (e.g. treatment negotiation, informed consent-taking etc.). In conclusion, it is argued that the detailed analysis of authentic individual medical consultations can illuminate systematic and recurrent practices of "doctoring" that creates opportunities and/or pitfalls in the consultation. This can consequently form the basis for communicative training sessions to improve the quality of healthcare delivery and outcome in Singapore.

October 11 – Sun He (OER, CRCD, NIE)

What animated feature(s) in eBooks could help children to learn their mother tongue language better? Evidences from an eyetracking study

Features of animated storybooks (e.g., motion, music) are assumed to provide richer sensory information to children than traditional print books, and enable to help them better understand and retain the story and ultimately enhance language acquisition (Bus, Takacs, Kegel, 2015). Animated storybooks have been shown to be promising for child bilingual learners in particular (Verhallen & Bus, 2011), as these young language learners might need additional cues to comprehend the story plots and grasp the new words and grammar. Most of the existing studies focus on Germanic languages, such as Dutch and English, and little is known about whether such an "animated advantage" could be extended to other languages, such as Chinese. The current study intends to explore if and how the promising features such as motion and sound may assist English-Chinese bilingual preschoolers to acquire Chinese in Singapore. Although bilingualism is a cornerstone of the Singapore education system, recent years have witnessed an inclination for English use in bilingual families, resulting in limited Chinese proficiency of children. As such, the findings of the current study have both social and academic relevance.

November 8 – Yang Yang (OER, CRCD, NIE)

Children's emotion understanding: Development, antecedents, and consequences.

How do children understand emotions? What are the factors that influence children's emotion understanding? What are the other aspects of child development related to children's emotion understanding? In this talk, I will present a series of studies examining, in Western and Asian cultural contexts, the developmental pattern (developmental trajectories and age differences), the antecedents (culture, mother-child interactions, and maternal vocal and facial expressions), and the consequences (social skills, coping strategies, behavioral problems) of children's emotional development. Ongoing and future studies on Singaporean children's emotional development will also be discussed.

