

RGC Ref. No.: UGC/FDS16/H04/15 <hr/> (please insert ref. above)

**RESEARCH GRANTS COUNCIL
COMPETITIVE RESEARCH FUNDING SCHEMES FOR
THE LOCAL SELF-FINANCING DEGREE SECTOR**

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (FDS)

Completion Report

(for completed projects only)

<p><u>Submission Deadlines:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Auditor's report with unspent balance, if any: within six months of the approved project completion date. 2. Completion report: within 12 months of the approved project completion date.
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Part A: The Project and Investigator(s)

1. Project Title

Political Discourses in Hong Kong: A Systemic Functional Perspective

2. Investigator(s) And Academic Department(s) / Unit(s) Involved

Research Team	Name / Post	Unit / Department / Institution
Principal Investigator	LI Eden Sum-hung / Assistant Professor	School of Arts and Social Sciences / The Open University of Hong Kong
Co-Investigator	LUI Percy Luen-tim / Assistant Professor	School of Arts and Social Sciences / The Open University of Hong Kong
Co-investigator	LI Hanhong / Lecturer	Division of Language and Communication / Community College, the Polytechnic University of Hong Kong
Co-investigator	FUNG Andy / Tutor	School of Arts and Social Sciences / The Open University of Hong Kong

3. Project Duration

	Original	Revised	Date of RGC/ Institution Approval <i>(must be quoted)</i>
Project Start Date	1 January 2016	NA	
Project Completion Date	30 June 2018	NA	
Duration <i>(in month)</i>	30 months	NA	
Deadline for Submission of Completion Report	30 June 2019	NA	

Part B: The Final Report

5. Project Objectives

5.1 Objectives as per original application

1. To adopt the systemic functional approach to analyze the experiential, interpersonal and textual modes of meaning of the political discourses of various government officials, key figures of different political parties and interest groups concerning important issues arising at different stages leading up to the Chief Executive election in 2017;
2. To conduct register analysis of selected political discourses produced by key figures concerning important issues leading up to the Chief Executive election in 2017;
3. To compare the similarities and differences in language use among government officials, different political parties and interest groups in terms of the three modes of meaning and register in order to explore how their political ideologies are reflected and embedded in their use of language;
4. To examine if the language use of government officials of PRC and HKSAR, and key figures of political parties and interest groups changes with the political environment; and
5. To build up a corpus of political discourse as teaching and learning materials for three future courses at OUHK, namely a GE course entitled *Language and Politics in the Society of Hong Kong*, a Language Studies course entitled *Language, Power and Society*, and a Public Administration and Political Science course entitled *The Politics of Language*.

5.2 Revised objectives

Date of approval from the RGC: NA

Reasons for the change:

5.3 Realisation of the objectives

(Maximum 1 page; please state how and to what extent the project objectives have been achieved; give reasons for under-achievements and outline attempts to overcome problems, if any)

Objective (1) concerns the analysis of political discourses of various political actors towards important political issues leading up to the Chief Executive election in 2017 in terms of the three modes of meaning in the theoretical framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics, namely experiential, interpersonal and textual modes of meaning. The most important political issues during the research period include Occupy Central Movement, localism and independence, and public debates among the three candidates of the CE Election 2017. The research team has collected and analysed the political discourses of various government officials, key figures of different political parties and interest groups and constructed a corpus of political discourse of Hong Kong.

Objective (2) is about the register analysis of selected political discourses. We began to construct a comprehensive picture of the politics in Hong Kong by conducting the contextual analysis of the Hong Kong politics. We then conducted the registerial analysis of the political discourse of the televised meeting between the government officials of HKSAR and the student representatives of the Hong Kong Federation of Students during the Occupy Movement in 2014.

Objective (3) concerns language use and political ideology. We have compared the similarities and differences in language use among the political actors in terms of the three modes of meaning and register and tried to relate the similarities and differences with the political actors' self-identity, relative power, institutional role and agenda in various political events.

Objective (4) focuses on the language use with respect to the changes of political environment. We have compared the language use of different political actors in different political events through semantic discourse analysis and appraisal analysis and found that political actors had different language choices because they had different institutional rules and political agenda in these events.

Objective (5) concerns the construction of a corpus of political discourse of Hong Kong, intending to be used as teaching and learning materials. We have constructed a corpus entitled *The Corpus of Hong Kong Political Discourse* and uploaded it on the internet so that not only our team members, but also other academics in the disciplines of Linguistics and Political Sciences can make use of our data.

5.4 Summary of objectives addressed to date

Objectives <i>(as per 5.1/5.2 above)</i>	Addressed <i>(please tick)</i>	Percentage Achieved <i>(please estimate)</i>
1. To adopt the systemic functional approach to analyze the experiential, interpersonal and textual modes of meaning of the political discourses of various government officials, key figures of different political parties and interest groups concerning important issues arising at different stages leading up to the Chief Executive election in 2017.	√	100%
2. To conduct register analysis of selected political discourses produced by key figures concerning important issues leading up to the Chief Executive election in 2017.	√	100%
3. To compare the similarities and differences in language use among government officials, different political parties and interest groups in terms of the three modes of meaning and register in order to explore how their political ideologies are reflected and embedded in their use of language.	√	100%
4. To examine if the language use of government officials of PRC and HKSAR, and key figures of political parties and interest groups changes with the political environment.	√	100%
5. To build up a corpus of political discourse as teaching and learning materials for three future courses at OUHK, namely a GE course entitled Language and Politics in the Society of Hong Kong, a Language Studies course entitled Language, Power and Society, and a Public Administration and Political Science course entitled The Politics of Language.	√	100%

6. Research Outcome

6.1 Major findings and research outcome

(Maximum 1 page; please make reference to Part C where necessary)

While some scholars such as Reyes (2011a, 2011b) have expressed the feasibility of approaching the analysis of political discourse directly from the systemic functional perspective, all the previous studies adopted only a few important SF concepts to be the theoretical framework of analysis such as Kyrala (2010). A major achievement of the present research is the publication of a monograph entitled *Systemic Functional Political Discourse Analysis: A Text-based Study* from an international popular publisher. This is the first book in our discipline which takes a comprehensive systemic functional perspective on political discourse to provide a complete, integrated, exhaustive, systemic and functional description and analysis. Not only does it explicate the ways in which Systemic Functional Linguistics can contribute to analyzing political discourse data, but also to theorizing political discourse analysis when it relates the examination at the four-level abstractions, namely context, meaning, wording, and sound/writing, and inspects political events in which the political discourses are extracted from the perspective of ‘potential’ and ‘instance’. As a result, it provides examples of various analyses which have not been taken up in the previous studies on political discourse from a SF perspective, including contextual parameters, registerial analysis, semantic discourse analysis, appraisal analysis, and discusses important issues in political discourse, including negotiation of self-identity, association of language, power and institutional role, and expression of ‘evidentiality’ and ‘subjectivity’ – most of which have not been adopted in the previous political discourse analyses. Various SF analyses in this book, on the one hand, provide insights in our understanding of various aspects of political discourse; and on the other hand, they demonstrate how discussion can be extended to other important issues in political discourse.

Another important outcome is the building and publication of a corpus *The Corpus of Hong Kong Political Discourse*, which consists of more than a million words, including both spoken and written political discourse in Chinese and English. Spoken genres include speech, debate, interview, news report and commentary while written genres include press release, news report, interview, editorial, letter to the editors, commentary, exposition, response, advertisement and book chapter. The speakers and authors of the political discourses include officials of the Chinese and Hong Kong governments, politicians from both pro-establishment and pro-democratic camps, and various interest groups and individuals. The corpus can be used in the future research and also teaching and learning materials for the research team as well as other researchers working on political discourse.

6.2 Potential for further development of the research and the proposed course of action (Maximum half a page)

With the theorization of political discourse analysis from the Systemic Functional perspective, the present research, as well as its findings, can serve as the starting point of a number of research avenues and publications including at least the followings:

First, the Appraisal Theory in the Systemic Functional Linguistics is so comprehensive that Chapter 5 Appraisal Analysis of Political Discourse of our book *Systemic Functional Political Discourse Analysis: A Text-based Study* can be expanded into a separate monograph by comparing the use of appraisal item among different political actors in a political event in terms of their political parties, their institutional roles in that party and their division of labour in the event against their political agenda.

Second, the overall theoretical framework or a particular type of analysis in the present project can be used in the study of political discourses in other political events and the findings of this research project can be used to compare with those in other political events so that we can have a better understanding of the language choice in political discourse in different genres as well as the change of language choice in the historical development of a particular political issue.

Third, the overall theoretical framework or a particular type of analysis in the present project can be used in the study of other discourses such as medical discourse or media discourse and comparison can be made so that we can have a better understanding of the preferential language choice in different types of discourse, and also the relation between the preferential language choice and their expected social functions. This ultimately helps us to have a better understanding of the relationship between structure and function.

Last but not least, apart from self-identification, power distribution and institutional role, other social factors such as gender, age, education and their relationship with language choice in a political event can also be explored and compare with those in another political event in the same society such as Hong Kong as well as other Chinese societies such as Mainland China, Taiwan and Macau, as well as societies with various cultures such as Eastern and Western cultures or societies with different political regimes such as democratic and authoritative governments etc.

7. Layman's Summary

(Describe in layman's language the nature, significance and value of the research project, in no more than 200 words)

While previous studies on political discourse analysis from the Systemic Functional perspective took very limited systemic functional notions as their framework of analysis, the present research project has taken up the whole Systemic Functional Linguistics to theorize political discourse analysis. A major achievement of the present research is the publication of a monograph entitled *Systemic Functional Political Discourse Analysis: A Text-based Study*, which provides a comprehensive description and analysis of political discourse and a thorough theoretical framework so that any future study adopting the SF perspective can locate its own place within this framework. In other words, based on the interest of a research, a researcher can decide whether the study investigates the phenomenon at the contextual level, discourse semantic level, lexicogrammatical level, and/or a combination of several levels. At each level, he/she can decide whether he/she deals with the political event as an individual situation, a type of situation, a cultural institution, a cultural context or a combination of them. It also produces a corpus *The Corpus of Hong Kong Political Discourse* which can be used in the future research and also teaching and learning materials for the research team as well as other researchers working on political discourse.

(199 words)

Part C: Research Output

8. Peer-Reviewed Journal Publication(s) Arising Directly From This Research Project

(Please attach a copy of the publication and/or the letter of acceptance if not yet submitted in the previous progress report(s). All listed publications must acknowledge RGC's funding support by quoting the specific grant reference.)

The Latest Status of Publications				Author(s) (denote the corresponding author with an asterisk*)	Title and Journal / Book (with the volume, pages and other necessary publishing details specified)	Submitted to RGC (indicate the year ending of the relevant progress report)	Attached to this Report (Yes or No)	Acknowledged the Support of RGC (Yes or No)	Accessible from the institutional repository (Yes or No)
Year of Publication	Year of Acceptance (For paper accepted but not yet published)	Under Review	Under Preparation (optional)						
Sept 2019				Li, E.S.H., Lui, P.L.T. & Fung, A	<i>Systemic Functional Political Discourse Analysis: A Text-based Study</i> . London: Routledge	No	Yes [Appendix A to D]	Yes	Yes
2018				Li, J.H., Li, E.S.H., Lui, P.L.T. & Fung, A.K.C.	<i>The Corpus of Hong Kong Political Discourse</i> . Hong Kong. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WMAiK5kxBaVj96aKqzVaUlg2JXL_HaLZ/view?usp=sharing	No	Yes [Please refer to the URL]	Yes	Yes
2017				Li, E.S.H., Lui, P.L.T. & Li, J.	'The exploitation of first and second personal pronouns in political discourse: A case study in Hong Kong' <i>Proceedings of The 4th International Academic Conference on Social Sciences</i> . Singapore. Pp. 23-34.	Yes 2017	No	Yes	Yes

Note: (1) While Appendix A shows the contract of the book *Systemic Functional Political Discourse Analysis: A Text-based Study*, Appendix B is an email from the project manager of the publisher, indicating the latest timeline before the publication in September.

(2) The second publication *The Corpus of Hong Kong Political Discourse* is a linguistic corpus. It is an intended publication of this research project so it is not appropriate to be put in item 11. Strictly speaking, it is not a journal article. However, it is not possible and it is not the tradition in Corpus Linguistics to publish a corpus in a journal.

9. Recognized International Conference(s) In Which Paper(s) Related To This Research Project Was / Were Delivered

(Please attach a copy of each conference abstract)

Month / Year / Place	Title	Conference Name	Submitted to RGC (indicate the year ending of the relevant progress report)	Attached to this Report (Yes or No)	Acknowledged the Support of RGC (Yes or No)	Accessible from the institutional repository (Yes or No)
June, 2016 Polytechnic University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong	Building a Corpus of Political Discourse in Hong Kong Society	Hong Kong Association for Applied Linguistics	Yes 2017	No	Yes	Yes
July, 2016 Salzburg University, Unipark, Salzburg, Austria	Move, Act and Agenda: Analysing the Discourse of a Televised Political Event in Hong Kong	European Systemic Functional Linguistic Conference & Workshop	Yes 2017	No	Yes	Yes
August, 2016 Universiti Putra Malaysia, Penang, Malaysia	Who are 'we': A case study of the use of personal reference 'we' in Hong Kong political discourse	The 9th Malaysia International Conference on Languages, Literature and Cultures	Yes 2017	No	Yes	Yes
August, 2016 Universiti Putra Malaysia, Penang, Malaysia	Registerial cartography of political discourse	The 9th Malaysia International Conference on Languages, Literature and Cultures	Yes 2017	No	Yes	Yes
December, 2016 Monash University, Melbourne, Australia	Language and Power: A Quantitative Profile of Interpersonal Linguistic Choice in Political Discourse	Applied Linguistics Association of Australia (ALAA) Annual Conference	Yes 2017	No	Yes	Yes
December 2016 Nguyen Tat Thanh University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam	Theorizing Political Discourse Analysis from a Systemic Functional Perspective	International Conference on Asian Linguistics (ICAL2016@HCMC)	Yes 2017	No	Yes	Yes
December 2016 Nguyen Tat Thanh University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam	Representing the 'rule of law' in Occupy Central Movement discourse: a systemic functional approach	International Conference on Asian Linguistics (ICAL2016@HCMC)	Yes 2017	No	Yes	Yes
May 2017 National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens	Contrasting the uses of first personal plural pronoun in Cantonese and in English in political discourse	International Contrastive Linguistics Conference 8 (ICLC 8)	Yes 2017	No	Yes	Yes

November 2017 University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand, 23-24	An appraisal analysis of the language of argumentation in two political events in Hong Kong	The 2017 Conference of the Linguistic Society of New Zealand	Yes 2017	No	Yes	Yes
December 2017 University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan, Italy	Subjectivity and Evidentiality in Cantonese: A Text-based Study in Political Discourse in Hong Kong	The Second International Symposium on Chinese Theoretical and Applied Linguistics (ISOCTAL-2)	Yes 2017	No	Yes	Yes
December 2017 Singapore	The exploitation of first and second personal pronouns in political discourse: A case study in Hong Kong	The 4th International Academic Conference on Social Sciences	Yes 2017	No	Yes	Yes

10. Whether Research Experience And New Knowledge Has Been Transferred / Has Contributed To Teaching And Learning

(Please elaborate)

Approximately 8 undergraduate students and two graduate students were involved in data collection, data analysis, transcription and translation. By participating in the collection and analysis of data, students can have a taste of how an authentic research is done. By participating in the transcription and translation of data, the language studies and translation students' language proficiency and translation ability can be enhanced.

11. Student(s) Trained

(Please attach a copy of the title page of the thesis)

Name	Degree Registered for	Date of Registration	Date of Thesis Submission / Graduation
NA			

12. Other Impact

(e.g. award of patents or prizes, collaboration with other research institutions, technology transfer, teaching enhancement, etc.)

1. The principal investigator, Dr. Eden Li, has shared the experience and findings of this research project in a talk entitled 'Toward a Systemic Functional Political Discourse Analysis' in the LML Research Seminar 2018 of the Department of Linguistics and Modern Language Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong on 20 September, 2018.
2. Partly based on the data collected in this research project, the principal investigator, Dr. Eden Li, has presented a paper entitled 'From Subjectivity and Evidentiality to Clausal Boundary' in the 25th Symposium on Functional Linguistics and Discourse Analysis and the 2nd Symposium on Systemic Functional Linguistics and Chinese Studies, Central China Normal University, Wuhan, China, 8 – 10 June, 2018.
3. Partly based on the Cantonese discourse collected in this research project, the principal investigator, Dr. Eden Li, intend to co-author a book on the grammar of Cantonese and has

submitted another book proposal entitled *A Systemic Functional Grammar of Cantonese: From Clausal Grammar to Discourse Semantics* to an international publisher *Routledge* (Appendix C). The first reviewer's report, which is exceptionally positive and supportive, has been received (Appendix D).

13. Public Access Of Completion Report

(Please specify the information, if any, that cannot be provided for public access and give the reasons.)

Information that Cannot Be Provided for Public Access	Reasons
NA	

**RESEARCH GRANTS COUNCIL
COMPETITIVE RESEARCH FUNDING SCHEMES FOR
THE LOCAL SELF-FINANCING DEGREE SECTOR**

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (FDS)

Completion Report - Attachment

(for completed projects only)

RGC Ref. No.: UGC/FDS16/H04/15

Principal Investigator: Dr. LI Eden Sum-hung

Project Title: Political Discourse in Hong Kong: A Systemic Functional Perspective

Statistics on Research Outputs

	Peer-reviewed Journal Publications	Conference Papers	Scholarly Books, Monographs and Chapters	Patents Awarded	Other Research Outputs (Please specify)
No. of outputs arising directly from this research project [or conference]		11	1 monograph		1 on-line corpus; 1 proceedings; 1 talk in research seminar; 1 speech in symposium