RGC Ref. No.:
UGC/FDS16/H08/16
(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)

Submission Deadlines:	1. _Auftor'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._

Part A: The Project and Investigator(s)

1.   Project Title

A Study of the Language Specificness of Two Nursing Specialties

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

Research Team	Name / Post	Unit / Department / Institution
Principal Investigator	Chow Mei Yung Vanliza	School of Education and Languages / The Open University of Hong Kong
Co-Investigator(s)		
Others		

3.   Project Duration

	Original	Revised	Date of RGC / Institution Approval _(must be quoted)_
Project Start Date	1/1/2017	NA	
Project Completion Date	31/12/2018	NA	
Duration _(in month)_	24	NA	
Deadline for Submission of Completion Report	31/12/2019	NA	

Part B: The Final Report

5. Project Objectives,

5.1 Objectives as per original application

1. To explore special lexis and language patterns (both literal and metaphorical) used in journals and by nurses to describe the patients, nurses and the care they provide specifically in oncology and paediatric nursing in Hong Kong;

2. To reveal the kind of knowledge about oncology and paediatric nursing encoded in the language patterns.

5.2 Revised objectives

Date of approval from the RGC: NA

Reasons for the change:

1.

2.

3. ....

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)

To answer Research Questions 1 & 2:

i. Two sub-corpora containing nursing research articles about oncology nursing and pediatric nursing between year 2010 and 2016 were compiled, namely the Oncology Nursing General Corpus and Pediatric Nursing General Corpus.

ii. Concordance lines of the search word 'treatment(s)' were investigated to explore the kinds of metaphors employed in the nursing research articles to describe treatments in the two nursing specialties.

iii. Concordance lines of the search word 'nurse(s)' were investigated to explore the ways in which the roles and identities of nurses were constructed in oncology and pediatric nursing research articles.

To relate the findings resulted from Items i, ii & iii above to the Hong Kong nursing context:

Two surveys were conducted:

Survey 1: questionnaires were distributed to nursing students and nurse practitioners in Hong Kong.

In total, 30 participants joined this pilot study. They were asked to explain (in writing) some metaphorical phrases observed in the concordance lines of 'treatment(s)'. This pilot study aims to explore to what extent they understand the metaphorical phrases commonly employed in nursing research articles of their field.

Survey 2: interviews were conducted among nurses who have at least two years' experience taking care of cancer and / or pediatric patients in Hong Kong.

In total, 26 nurses were interviewed. The survey helps to explore whether special language use may manifest when Hong Kong nurse practitioners were asked to discuss their roles and work in oncology and pediatric nursing. This enrich our understanding of what have been found in the concordance lines of 'treatment(s)' and 'nurse(s)'in the two sub-corpora.

5.4   Summary of objectives addressed to date

Objectives *(as per 5.1/5.2 above)*	**Addressed** *(please tick)*	**Percentage Achieved** *(please estimate)*
1. To explore special lexis and language patterns ((both literal and metaphorical) used in journals and by nurses to describe the patients, nurses and the care they provide specifically in oncology and paediatric nursing in Hong Kong;	✓	100
2. To reveal the kind of knowledge about oncology and paediatric nursing encoded in the language patterns.	✓	100

6. Research Outcome

6.1 Major findings and research outcome
(Maximum 1 page; please make reference to Part C where necessary)

Concordance lines of treatment(s) and nurse(s) were investigated. The findings reveal that oncology treatments are more frequently described through metaphors. Six commonly used conceptual metaphors were observed in the description of treatments in oncology nursing. They are the journey, opponent, cycle, service, sight and animation metaphors (Chow and Littlemore, in preparation).

The analysis also reveals that discourse-community specific terms may sometimes manifest as polysemy, which pose additional challenges for L2 learners in the field. The polysemous item 'line' which involves a complex interplay of linguistic metaphor and metonymy is one of the examples. The term not only helps to delineate the routine work of nurses but also manifest in fixed expressions, which are vague language and euphemisms helping nurses to achieve effective communication among members in their discourse community (Chow and Littlemore, in preparation).

A survey which investigated the extent to which nurses and nursing students are aware of the meaning of polysemous item 'line' reveals that the L1 (Cantonese) of the Hong Kong participants have affected the ways in which they understand the meanings of this technical term in nursing texts. It also reveals that the teaching of English fixed expressions such as idiom and euphemisms is necessary. It helps nurses to understand nursing texts more accurately and raise their awareness on using these phrases for facilitating effective workplace nurse-nurse and nurse-patient communication.

The transitivity analysis based on systemic functional grammar was conducted to explore what kinds of process are frequently employed to construe nurses in oncology and paediatric nursing research articles. According to systemic functional grammar, there are six kinds of process. The analysis of the concordance lines of nurse(s) indicates that material, mental and relational process types are the three main types of process utilized to construe the work and identities of nurses. In brief, these three kinds of process types reveal that routine work and caring jobs of nurses in both nursing specialties. Nevertheless, these processes also tend to focus on the clinical skills of the nurses taking care of cancer patients but foreground the nurses taking care of children as educators and advocates.

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

Based on the findings obtained in Survey 1, it is suggested that a more in-depth investigation regarding the problems nursing students may encounter in understanding discourse-community specific polysemy such as 'line' can be conducted in the future.

Furthermore, an investigation on the interview data collected from the nurses may help to explore whether there are any cultural specific terms Hong Kong nurses employed to describe their work with oncological and pediatric nurses.

7. **Layman's Summary**
    (Describe <u>in layman's language</u> the nature, significance and value of the research project, in no more than 200 words)

The research project aims to investigate the ways in which treatments and nurses are described in oncology and paediatric nursing research articles. Two sub-corpora containing nursing research articles about oncology and pediatric nursing between year 2010 and 2016 were compiled into two sub-corpora, namely the Oncology Nursing General Corpus and Pediatric Nursing General Corpus. Concordance lines of treatment(s) and nurse(s) were investigated.

The findings reveal that cancer treatments are more frequently described through metaphors, such as the journey, opponent, cycle, service, sight and animation metaphors. The investigation also reveals that some of the terms commonly used by nurses at workplace carry more than one meaning, such as the word 'line', which describes not only the routine work of nurses but also appears in fixed expressions which are useful for nurses in nurse-nurse and nurse-patient communication. These findings draw our attention to the importance of metaphors and polysemy in the description of nursing knowledge.

The findings also help to explore the ways in which systemic functional linguistics framework and corpus method can work together to uncover the representation of nurses in oncology and pediatric nursing specialties. Overall, the routine caring work and the roles of nurses are mainly described through action, mental and relational verbs (e.g. 'be' and 'have'). Nevertheless, these three kinds of verbs tend to focus more on the clinical skills of the nurses taking care of cancer patients but foreground the nurses taking care of children as educators and advocates.

Part C: Research Output

8.   Peer-Reviewed Journal Publication(s) Arising <u>Directly</u> 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)*	Acknowl-edged 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)*						
			✓	*Dr Vanliza Chow & Prof Jeannette Littlemore	Metaphors in oncology nursing: a complexity theory approach (proposed title) *English Text Construction*	No	No	Yes	Yes
			✓	*Dr Vanliza Chow & Prof Jeannette Littlemore	Exploring the roles of polysemy in nursing research articles (proposed title) *Journal of Advanced Nursing*	No	No	Yes	Yes

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)*
April/17/ Croatia	Exploring the use of metaphors in oncology writing	The 3rd international symposium on figurative though and language	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Nov/17/ Taiwan	Investigating the use of metaphors in nursing discourse	2017 International conference on ESP	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Nov/17/ New Zealand	A corpus-based study of the use of figurative language in oncology nursing	International applied linguistic conference	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Jan/18/ USA	Exploring the language use in nursing discourse on an intra-disciplinary level	Hawaii International Conference on Education	No	Yes [Attachment 1]	Yes	Yes
Sept/ 18 Japan	The representation of nurses in oncology and paediatric nursing research articles: who are they and what do they do? *	Fourth Asia Pacific Corpus Linguistics Conference APCLC 2018	No	Yes [Attachment 2]	Yes	Yes

*Published in the proceedings of the 4th Asia-Pacific Corpus Linguistics Conference (APCLC 2018), 80-87

10. **Whether Research Experience And New Knowledge Has Been Transferred / Has Contributed To Teaching And Learning**
    (Please elaborate)

    NA

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.)

NA

13. 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	2	5	NA	NA	Type	No.
					NA	NA

14. **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
Corpus data	To avoid copyright infringement
Survey data	To protect confidentiality of the participants involved in the two surveys