

RGC Ref. No.: UGC/IIDS16/H01/16 <hr/> (please insert ref. above)
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**RESEARCH GRANTS COUNCIL
COMPETITIVE RESEARCH FUNDING SCHEMES FOR
THE LOCAL SELF-FINANCING DEGREE SECTOR**

INTER-INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (IIDS)

Completion Report
(for completed projects only)

<p><u>Submission Deadlines:</u> 1. <i>The unspent balance, if applicable, and auditor's report: within <u>six</u> months of the approved project completion date.</i></p> <p>2. <i>Completion report: within <u>12</u> months of the approved project completion date.</i></p>

Part A: The Project and Investigator(s)

1. Project Title

Harnessing the latest corpus-based approaches for research

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

Research Team	Name / Post	Unit / Department / Institution
Principal Investigator	Dr LEUNG Chung-hong / Associate Professor	School of Education and Languages, The Open University of Hong Kong
Co-Investigator	Dr LI Kam-cheong / Director	University Research Centre, The Open University of Hong Kong
Co-Investigator	Dr WONG Tak-ming / Research Coordinator	University Research Centre, The Open University of Hong Kong
Co-Investigator	Ms WONG Sin-ying / Language Centre Officer	School of Humanities and Languages, Caritas Institute of Higher Education

3. Project Duration

	Original	Revised	Date of RGC / Institution Approval (must be quoted)
Project Start Date	1 January 2017	N.A.	N.A.
Project Completion Date	31 December 2017		
Duration (in month)	12 months		
Deadline for Submission of Completion Report	31 December 2018		

Part B: The Final Report

5. Collaboration With Other Self-Financing Degree-Awarding Institutions

Collaborating Self-Financing Institution	% of Participation	Distinctive Element(s) that the Institution is Responsible for the Project
The Open University of Hong Kong	80%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversaw the overall project planning and ongoing development • Proposed and liaised with speakers • Hosted and managed the series of events • Provided logistic support to speakers • Developed webpages for promotion of the events • Provided registration services • Prepared reports for the project
Caritas Institute of Higher Education	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoted the events and encouraged academics in CIHE to participate in them • Made logistic arrangements for the venue of a workshop

6. Project Objectives

6.1 Objectives as per original application

The aim of this project was to enhance local academics' capability in research on corpus linguistics. The objectives of the project were:

1. to make use of the latest developments in corpus linguistics and corpus-based approaches in their research;
2. to identify future research directions and promising research topics in corpus-based research;
3. to generate corpus-based research in other disciplines; and
4. to use these research outputs to inform their teaching.

6.2 Revised objectives

No changes were made to the objectives.

6.3 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)

The seminars and workshops were designed and implemented according to the project objectives (see Section 6.1).

Implementation of the seminars and workshops

Topics: The topics of the seminars and workshops were chosen to address the project objectives, as follows.

Seminars

1. Corpus: Promises, Challenges, and Research Directions
2. Leveraging the Potential of Corpora
3. Corpus-based Research Methodology and its Applications
On the Study of Co-occurrence in Corpus Data: Against Frequency and Towards a More Multi-dimensional View
4. Interdisciplinary and Discipline-specific Corpus Research

Workshops

1. Developing Corpora for Research
2. Designing Discipline-specific Corpus-based Research: Lessons from Corpus Linguistics
3. Designing Interdisciplinary Corpus Research

(Full abstracts of the seminars and workshops are in Appendix I.)

Speakers: As reported in Section 6.6, the speakers for the seminars and workshops were all experts in the relevant areas.

Participants: There were 234 participants in the seminars and workshops. They included academics, research staff and students from more than 30 (excluding “unknown”) local and overseas institutions.

In addition, four seminars and three workshops were video-recorded with the speakers’ permission. The videos and relevant event materials were made available and can be accessed on the project webpage at:

http://www.ouhk.edu.hk/wcsprd/Satellite?pagename=OUHK/tcAdmSing&sch=URC&c=C_URC&cid=1475110137865&lang=eng

Academics from other institutions and the general public can freely access the videos and event materials.

Evaluation: Evaluations were conducted for all the seminars and workshops, which showed that they were very well received by the participants. The participants showed a high satisfaction level on various aspects, including the relevance of the content, its usefulness for research, the quality of the materials, and the speakers’ knowledge of the topics. Therefore, the events were highly effective in enriching the participants’

knowledge and research skills in corpus linguistics. (Details of the evaluation results are in Appendix IV.)

Summary of the objectives addressed to date

Objectives	Addressed <i>(please tick)</i>	Percentage Achieved <i>(please estimate)</i>
1. To make use of the latest developments in corpus linguistics and corpus-based approaches in their research	✓	100%
2. To identify future research directions and promising research topics in corpus-based research	✓	100%
3. To generate corpus-based research in other disciplines	✓	100%
4. To use these research outputs to inform their teaching	✓	100%

6.4 Project progress

Original Implementation Schedule	Revised Implementation Schedule (Date of RGC's Approval)	Updated Progress
January 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation of speakers Promotion and publicity work Recruitment of support staff 	No revision was made to the implementation schedule.	N.A.
March 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminar on Corpus: Promises, Challenges, and Research Directions 	No revision was made to the implementation schedule.	N.A.
June 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop on Developing Corpora for Research 	No revision was made to the implementation schedule.	N.A.
June 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminar on Leveraging the Potential of Corpora 	No revision was made to the implementation schedule.	N.A.
September 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminar on Corpus-based Research Methodology and its Applications: On the Study of Co-occurrence in Corpus Data - Against Frequency and Towards a More Multi-dimensional View 	No revision was made to the implementation schedule.	N.A.
September 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop on Designing Discipline-specific Corpus-based Research: 	No revision was made to the implementation schedule.	N.A.

Lessons from Corpus Linguistics		
October 2017 • Seminar on Interdisciplinary and Discipline-specific Corpus Research	No revision was made to the implementation schedule.	N.A.
October 2017 • Workshop on Designing Interdisciplinary Corpus Research	No revision was made to the implementation schedule.	N.A.
November 2017 • Compilation of final report	No revision was made to the implementation schedule.	N.A.

6.5 Speaker(s)

Title / Name (Surname in Capital Letters)	Post / Institution	Title / Topic of Presentation / Course	Previous Research Links with Hong Kong Institutions (Nature and Date (Month / Year))
Prof. Tony MCENERY	Director of Research, Economic and Social Research Council Distinguished Professor, Department of Linguistics and English Language, Lancaster University, United Kingdom	Corpus: Promises, Challenges, and Research Directions	Co-authored books with scholars at the City University of Hong Kong, the University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and the Chinese University of Hong Kong: • McEnery, T. & Xiao, R. (2016). Corpus- based study of Chinese. In S.W. Chan (Ed.) <i>The Routledge encyclopedia of the Chinese language</i> . (pp. 81–113). Routledge. • McEnery, T. & Kifle, N.A. (2014). Epistemic modality in argumentative essays of second-language writers. In J. Flowerdew (Ed.), <i>Academic discourse</i> (pp. 182–195). Routledge.
Prof. Laurence ANTHONY	Professor, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Waseda University, Japan	Developing Corpora for Research; Leveraging the Potential of Corpora	Advisory role at the City University of Hong Kong: • Project on data-driven learning in research publication for PhD students (2015–2016). Conference presentations at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University: • Anthony, L., Chuji, K., Yokota, K. & Mizumoto, A.

			<p>(2014). Broadening the scope of parallel corpus tools: Using AntPConc in the DDL class. <i>The 2nd Asia Pacific Corpus Linguistics Conference</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthony, L. & Bowen, M. (2012). The language of mathematics: A corpus-based analysis of research writing in a neglected field. <i>The 1st International Conference of the Chinese Association for ESP and the 4th International Conference on ESP in Asia</i>.
Prof. Stefan Th. GRIES	Professor of Linguistics, Department of Linguistics, University of California, Santa Barbara	Corpus-based Research Methodology and its Applications: On the Study of Co-occurrence in Corpus Data: Against Frequency and Towards a More Multi-dimensional View; Designing Discipline-specific Corpus-based Research: Lessons from Corpus Linguistics	N.A
Prof. Michaela MAHLBERG	Chair in Corpus Linguistics, Director of the Centre for Corpus Research, Director of Research and Knowledge Transfer for the College of Arts and Law, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom	Interdisciplinary and Discipline-specific Corpus Research; Designing Interdisciplinary Corpus Research	N.A

- 6.6 Please provide details of the activities organized, including the theme / objectives of the activities, targeted participants, attendance, analysis of participants, e.g. country of origin, research background, etc., evaluation forms of the activities, and a summary of the participants' evaluation. Photos of the activities are preferred.

Please refer to the appendices as follows:

Appendix	Description
I	Summary of the events
II	List of participants
III	Samples of evaluation forms used in the events
IV	Evaluation summary of the events
V	Photos of the events

7. Research-Related Outcome

- 7.1 Potential for development into research proposals and the proposed course of action
(*Maximum half a page*)

The project served to enhance the capability of academics in using corpus-based approaches or conducting research in corpus linguistics. The seminars and workshops covered the knowledge and skills for corpus linguistics research, such as the latest development, research tools and the applications of corpus linguistics, so that the participants became more capable of conducting corpus linguistics research independently and identifying potential research topics in their own disciplines.

As shown in the evaluation feedback, the participants indicated that the events helped them to conduct research studies in corpus linguistics. A number of specific topics were suggested by the participants for the organization of future events (see Section 7.3 for details).

- 7.2 Research collaboration achieved
(*Please give details on the achievement and its relevant impact*)

The seminars and workshops gathered academics from various institutions who were interested in corpus linguistics and conducting research studies in this area. Through the seminars and workshops, academics had opportunities to meet with each other for academic exchanges, and seek advice from the speakers on their individual research ideas and studies. Those academics were able to gain insights and resolve issues regarding their current research studies. The project therefore facilitated collaboration and support in corpus linguistics among academics from various institutions and disciplines.

- 7.3 Any new development and/or challenging research topic(s) has / have been identified and any new initiative(s) for future research has / have been inspired.

Participants who attended one or more of the events in the project suggested specific topics for future events. The topics included:

1. Construction of a multi-modal corpus
2. Writing a corpus programme
3. How to use a corpus to teach language, i.e. the pedagogical implications of the use of a corpus
4. Analysis of speech acts

5. Conversational analysis

8. The Layman's Summary

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

In this project, four seminars and three workshops were organized for developing academics' capability to conduct research using corpus-based approaches or research in corpus linguistics. For each seminar and workshop, an expert was invited to speak on a specific topic related to corpus linguistics, covering its latest developments, useful corpus tools and data, and the design of interdisciplinary and disciplinary-specific corpus research. Three seminars were followed by a workshop that provided instructions and hands-on practice in building corpora and conducting corpus-based research. The events were jointly organised by the Open University of Hong Kong and Caritas Institute of Higher Education. The events were open to academics and students in the tertiary sector in Hong Kong and the general public, and attracted 234 attendees from more than 30 institutions. The evaluation results showed that the events were successful in enhancing participants' research skills in corpus linguistics, and promoting the application of corpus-based approaches to research and teaching in the local self-financing degree sector. The project objectives were achieved.

Part C: Research Output**9. Recognized Conference(s) Paper(s) Related To This Project Was / Were Delivered (As Applicable)**

(Please attach a copy of each conference abstract)

Month / Year / Place	Title	Conference Name	Submitted to RGC <i>(indicate the year ending of the relevant progress report)</i>	Attached to this Report <i>(Yes or No)</i>	Acknowledged the Support of RGC <i>(Yes or No)</i>
N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

10. Research Personnel Trained (As Applicable)

Please refer to Appendix II for the names and institutions of the participants in the events.

11. Other Impact (As Applicable)

(e.g. prizes, collaboration with other research institutions, technology transfer, etc.)

Through the events, local institutions were able to meet with experts in corpus linguistics from various regions, including the United Kingdom, Japan and the United States. These speakers gave insights for the academics to apply corpus linguistics in their teaching and learning, as well as in their research studies. Research collaboration with the speakers has been promoted. For example, one of the speakers, Prof. Laurence Anthony, has been appointed as Distinguished Professor of the Open University of Hong Kong to help develop relevant academic staff's research capability in corpus linguistics. In addition, the Principal Investigator

of this project gained insights from the project events and generated a research proposal on corpus linguistics for the RGC's Faculty Development Scheme.

12. 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
N.A.	N.A.

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INTER-INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (IIDS)

Completion Report - Attachment

(for completed projects only)

RGC Ref. No.: UGC/IIDS16/H01/16

Principal Investigator: Dr LEUNG Chung-hong , Associate Professor
School of Education and Languages, The Open University of Hong Kong

Project Title: Harnessing the latest corpus-based approaches for research

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]	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	Four seminars and three workshops