

The Department of English Newsletter

(University of Macau)

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Department News

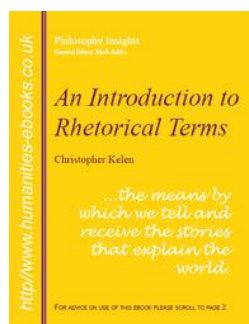
Poetry of Response featured in *Jacket Magazine*

Christopher (Kit) Kelen has recently guest edited a feature on the 'poetry of response' appearing in the current issue of *Jacket*, a prestigious international poetry magazine that features great names in poetry translation such as Forrest Gander, Kent Johnson, Tony Barnstone, Andres Ajens and Pierre Joris, the feature focuses on a range of 'translation related' activities, representing the work and observations of practising poets who are also engaged in poetry translation. Professor Kelen's own piece in the feature, 'Conversation with Tang Poets: some notes on the practice' includes the work of our Portuguese department colleague, Dr Yao Jingming (Yao Feng) as well as that of graduate students, Amy Wong, Hilda Tam, Agnes Vong, Petra Seak, Lili Han and Charlie Li. This is an impressive showing for Macao, the University and the English Department in an important international poetry forum.

Read the whole feature at:

<http://jacketmagazine.com/32/index.shtml>

Prof. Kelen has also published an e-book in the UK entitled *An Introduction to Rhetorical Terms*. The book provides students with a handy reference to the background knowledge of rhetorical terms required of them by critical and theoretical texts in humanities.



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UM to Host 6th FIT Asian Translators' Forum

At the 5th FIT Asian Translators' Forum held in April 11-12, 2007 in Bogor, Indonesia, the University of Macau was selected to host the 6th FIT Asian Translators' Forum to be held in 2010.



Prof. Zhang Meifang Receiving the Authorization

The FIT Asian Translators' Forum is an international conference held once every three years under the auspices of the Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs (FIT). The first forum was held in Beijing (1995), the second in Seoul (1998), the third in Hong Kong (2001), the fourth in Beijing (2004) and the fifth in Bogor, Indonesia.

The aim of the FIT Asian Forum is to provide translators, interpreters, and translation scholars a platform to exchange views. The forum is also considered a "bridge" bringing people from different areas and cultures together.

Professor Zhang Meifang, Qian Hong (Doctoral Candidate) and Song Xiaodong (Masters Candidate) presented papers during the 5th FIT Asian Translators' Forum.

Excellence in Pedagogy

Stephanie Lam (Lam Ian Ian) won a contest entitled "Premio do Projecto Pedagogico", organized annually by Education & Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ). The contest was open to all teachers below university level. Stephanie participated in 2005-2006 Senior English Teaching on the topic - "Fashion Designers" and has recently received a letter of congratulation confirming her win. A formal award ceremony is to follow shortly.

Miranda Brings Home the Lenovo Cup

Miranda (Ma Sin I), our third year student has won the First Prize at the 12th 21st Century Lenovo Cup National English Speaking Competition held in Hong Kong between March 27- 30, 2007.



Miranda (left) and Alice Lee at the Competition

With the endorsement of the Chinese Ministry of Education, the *21st Century National English Speaking Competition* is the top event of its kind in China. It attracts nearly 10,000 participants from more than 800 universities each year. This year the competition was jointly sponsored by *China Daily* and Lenovo, organized by the *21st Century English Newspaper* and the Chinese University of Hong Kong in association with TESOL Inc. Attending the National Competition this year were 40 finalists from regional contests together with 10 others from the top 10 universities from the previous competition and 10 representatives from Japan, South Korea,

Thailand and Taiwan. Miranda represented the University of Macau as well as the Macao Region at the competition.

The top 10 winners of 12th 21st Century Lenovo Cup National English Speaking Competition will have the opportunity to visit one of the universities in UK, Australia and Singapore. They will also be offered opportunities to work with LENOVO worldwide.

Our ELC colleague Alice Lee, Miranda's tutor for this event, also attended the competition.

Linguistics' Day Out

Students from the Applied Linguistics Class made fieldtrips to Sheng Keng Hui Primary school (March 21) and The International School of Macau (March 28). The schools kindly allowed students to visit so as to observe how language learning occurs in formal classroom settings. In class students are exploring how various cognitive, affective, psychological, and linguistic principles help or hinder formal language learning.



Students with school children

This was a unique opportunity for our students to "shadow" a primary or junior high school student throughout an entire school day while also being immersed in an English-only classroom environment. Both these schools are innovative and somewhat unique in Macao as they have a very heterogeneous mixture of students from many different countries and they promote multi-modal learning. We were very happy that they gave us such a wonderful welcome. Our

students were excited and thrilled with the experience.

Theater in English

This spring English Studies students, and other students in English classes, have been active in two theater projects. For the Chinese Universities Shakespeare Festival acting competition, the UM team was among ten selected as finalists in the competition. Jenny Mok, Tommy Pang, and Ines Kuan will perform two scenes from Shakespeare's *Henry VIII* (or *All is True*) 23rd May 2007 on the campus of the Chinese University of Hong Kong after several days of workshops. Grace Wei, a doctoral candidate in English, joins Keith Appler as co-director in this effort. Lynda Chapple has provided substantial support to this project this spring.



Rehearsals

Meanwhile, students from the Introduction to Theatre II course will perform Arthur Miller's adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* in the STDM Auditorium on the evenings of 17th and 18th May. Similar to last year's performances of *Our Town*, cast role assignments will change from one night to the next. Keith Appler and Grace Wei are co-directors of this production.

During this rehearsal season, members of both casts received specialized coaching from two visiting theater professionals. Chad Leslie, an artistic director and arts consultant in Macau, led the students in one workshop in theatrical

improvisation. Later, Joseph Graves, with professional directing and consulting credits in New York, London, Beijing, and elsewhere, led a workshop in performing from the text. This workshop dealt with both *Henry VIII* and *An Enemy of the People*.

Academic Activities of Department Faculty

Conference Presentations/Publications

Prof. Zhang Meifang

“A Model of Text Function Analysis for Translation Teaching -- with special reference to the social context of Macao” at the *FIT 5th Asian Translators' Forum*, Bogor, Indonesia, April 11-12, 2007.

“A Schematic Analysis of the Translator's Cognitive Process” in Luo XM (ed.) *Translation Studies: An Interdisciplinary Approach*. Beijing: Foreign Language Press, 2006:44-52.

Dr. Vincent Cai

“Self-Referentiality and Self-Reflexivity: Metafictional Strategy in Postmodern Fiction,” at *The Fifth International Conference on Arts and Humanities*, Hawaii, USA, January 11-15, 2007.

Ms. Lynda Chapple

“In threads and tatters: Dress, identity and identification in Mulholland Dr.” at *Image, Identity and Culture in Narrative and Documentary Cinema* (organised and sponsored by the Film Studies Program at UCC, with delegates from Europe, the UK, the USA and Asia) at University College Cork, Ireland, Mar 30-31, 2007.

Ms Qian Hong, Sunny (PhD student)

“Investigating ‘Unfaithful’ Translation via the Appraisal Theory-- A Case Study of Translations of Public Notices” at the *FIT 5th Asian Translators’ Forum*, Bogor, Indonesia, April 11-12, 2007.

Mr Song Xiaodong, David (MA student)

“Investigating Adaptive Translation from a Functional Perspective – A Case Study of Commercial Advertisement Translation” at the *FIT 5th Asian Translators’ Forum*, Bogor, Indonesia, April 11-12, 2007.

Translation/Interpretation

Dr Hari Venkatesan

C-E Translation of article: 金冲及 Jin Chongji “新中国初期的毛泽东和周恩来” (Mao Zedong & Zhou Enlai at the Dawn of the People’s Republic) for *Journal of Modern Chinese History* (China Academy of Social Sciences).

Announcements

- The Thesis Proposal Seminar for MA Students of the Department will be held on Wednesday, May 23 from 5-7 pm.
- Distinguished Lecture Series Jan – May 2007

March 07, Jane Lai, Hong Kong Baptist University, on “Translating Performance Scripts”

March 09, Andy Kirkpatrick, Hong Kong Institute of Education, on “Variation and Intelligibility in World Englishes: Implications for ELT”

May 10, Paroo Nihalani, Universiti Brunei Darussalam on “Globalization and Communication: Unity in Diversity”

- Spring 2007 English Department Colloquium Series

9 May 2007

Mr. Alan Jefferies. "Alan Jefferies, Poet and Children's Author."

30 May 2007

Dr. Hari Venkatesan (Department of English). "Collaborative Translation as a Pedagogical Tool: The Case of TransWiki."

Ma Sin I Miranda's Winning Entry

A BETTER WORLD, A BETTER YOU

When I was little, I was so idealistic that I dreamed of helping the world by ending world hunger. As I grew up, thinking that I was too insignificant to effect change, I just let go of my dream. In all these years, I observed that the older I got, the less I helped. Why?..Whether I had legitimate reasons or apologetic excuses, it remains that I didn't help as much as I wanted to.

How many of you, like me, had grand dreams of affecting the lives of millions of people? How many of you, like me, started turning your attention inwards the older you got? How many of you, like me, became less and less idealistic and more and more pessimistic about the ability of one person to effect change?

Ladies and gentlemen, do you know about the environmental crisis? It was this issue that brought my optimism back and made me remember that one person can make a difference. I joined a nameless team of volunteers to help save the earth. This team gave me an opportunity to be an everyday volunteer without joining any organization.

Before I joined this team, I was ignorant to the fact that the earth needed saving. But now I know that we are facing a global crisis. It can be fatal if we overlook the situation. I don't mean to scare you, but by the time I finish my four-minute speech, 400 acres of rainforests will have been cut down. Five years ago, Larsen B, a gigantic piece of ice 12 times the size of Hong Kong, fell into the ocean and melted.

Why does it matter? It matters if we care about the disappearance of Hong Kong and Shanghai from the face of the earth. It matters because if Antarctica melts, according to former U.S. Vice President Al Gore, the sea level will rise by 20 feet. That's almost the height of basketball star Yao Ming, three times over.

I have given you some alarming statistics and painted a grim picture. As alarming and grim as they are, it was precisely this information that changed my attitude towards the environment. It was precisely this change in attitude that gave me the sense of urgency to start volunteering to help save the earth. It was precisely because I did not want to stake my children's future on my current actions that made me not decide to do something, but to simply do it. Switch off the

lights, turn off the tap, use less paper, walk more, recycle have all become my habits.

From this experience, I have learned that I can be a volunteer and serve the community even if I am not a member of any concrete and physical organization. I have learned that the essence of volunteerism lies not within the organization, not even within the name of the cause, but within oneself. I have learned that personal growth is a long process that begins with ignorance and ends with a change in one's behavior. Along the way, I've gained new knowledge, changed my attitude, and put my knowledge into practice.



Each time I see someone else doing the same thing I'm doing, I'm optimistic because I know I'm one of not hundreds, not thousands, but hundreds of millions of members. I'm optimistic because I know that together we will perhaps achieve the greatest goal in the history of mankind. I'm optimistic because I know that my childhood dream of helping the globe is no longer just a fantasy. I'm optimistic because although I didn't end world hunger, my idealism has returned.