

Wednesday 3 June

4:20pm - 5:00pm

Room: Block Y, Room Y402

Presentation Title: A Study of Learner Autonomy Mode in Corpus-based Synonym Distinction

Presenter / Co-presenters:	Prof Suxiang Yang, School of Foreign Studies, Henan Polytechnic University, Henan, China
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Theme:	E-learning initiatives
Presentation Type:	Paper presentation

Abstract

Autonomy is defined as the capacity to take control over one's own learning. This paper reports on a study which investigated the learner autonomy of a group of Non-English Major Postgraduates at Henan Polytechnic University, China. The study used the corpus-based synonym distinguish to help the students find the differences among synonyms such as etiquette, propriety, protocol and decorum in New Century Non-English Major Postgraduate English Reading Books 1 and 2 during Sept., 2007--June 2008. For every unit the students distinguished a couple of synonyms which they found difficult to tell the difference in detail. The Corpus is the online BUY-BNC. The experiment was conducted by first asking the Students to find the definition of the synonyms and then letting them find the semantic prosodies, the collocations and the IM values of the synonymies. By doing so, the students can understand the synonyms better from the semantic prosody and the collocation perspectives, gain confidence and motivation in learning English and develop their learning autonomy. In the end the paper presents some implications for improving learner autonomy in future postgraduate English learning and teaching in China.

Biodata

Suxing Yang is an Associate Professor at the School of Foreign Studies, Henan Polytechnic University, Henan, China. She is a doctor candidate of Curriculum and Pedagogy at School of Foreign Studies, South China Normal University, Guangzhou, China. She has a Master degree from School of Foreign Studies, Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China and a Bachelor degree from the Department of Foreign Studies, Henan University of Education, Henan, China. Since 1986 she has worked at the Department of Foreign Studies, Henan Polytechnic University, Henan, China.