COLLOQUIUM BY MONICA G. RICHARDS

TIME: 5:00-6:00 PM, MONDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2018

VENUE: ACADEMIC BUILDING 1079

Preparing for When It Matters: Building Nonnative Writers' Capacity to Produce Standard English Phrasing and Grammar

Speaker: Monica G. Richards, Ph.D. at the Iowa State University

* The event is also a faculty recruitment seminar for Language and Culture Center.

ABSTRACT:

Around the world, nonnative-English-speaking academics face a marked disadvantage in communicating their disciplinary contributions and expertise to an international audience relative to their native-English-speaking peers. Often, this is due merely to nonnative-English-speaking academics lacking adequate proficiency in the phrasing and grammar conventions of English – the de facto language of the international academy – to communicate effectively the real contributions they offer their respective disciplines. One approach to dealing with the hegemony of "Standard English" has been to identify a kind of "Lingua Franca Core" (e.g., Jenkins, 2000, 2002) able to ensure intelligibility without reliance on a native-speaker model. The aim of equalizing access to publication in international English-medium journals is laudable. Nevertheless, the reality scholars face frequently falls far short of this ideal. However, what if writers can be taught to identify standard English phrasing and grammar for themselves via the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), Google Scholar and a very limited set of "If X, then Y" grammar rules? This presentation introduces action research findings and training techniques suggesting nonnative writers can indeed be trained to 1) self-

identify and 2) self-correct many (if not most) nonstandard English phrasing/grammar errors – without paying an L1 English copy editor.

If you are interested in helping nonnative writers produce standard English phrasing and grammar, but do not yet have an account at https://corpus.byu.edu/, Monica highly recommends you complete the account registration process as soon as possible (definitely before her presentation). This is important because a high number of simultaneous, unregistered searches from a single geographic location tend to get quickly blocked as spam and also because the site's registration confirmation emails are sometimes slow to arrive. (Note: If you are not a researcher in languages or linguistics, please register in one of the yellow or red categories. Registration in one of the green categories will trigger a check about whether you really are a language/linguistics researcher or not.) Also, don't forget to bring an electronic device to her colloquium, so you can experience the power of this search tool for yourself!

BIO:

Monica Richards earned her M.A. in Teaching English as a Second Language and her Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics and Technology from Iowa State University. She has taught a wide range of English classes for nonnative speakers not only at Iowa State University, but also at Xiamen City University in Xiamen, China. Her teaching and research interests focus on equipping nonnative English speakers to capitalize on resources such as 21st century technology to bootstrap their way to a globally competitive level of English proficiency.

This event is open to all. For any queries email yg73@duke.edu or call 3665 7149.

Hope to see you all.

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