COLLOQUIUM BY XINJIA PENG

CORPUS LINGUISTICS FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING AND TEACHING

TIME: 5:00-6:00 PM, MONDAY, 12 MARCH 2018

VENUE: ACADEMIC BUILDING 1079

Corpus Linguistics for Foreign Language Learning and Teaching

Speaker: Xinjia Peng, Lead Flagship Instructor at Brigham Young University.

ABSTRACT:

Corpus methods facilitate linguistics research in offering empirical evidence on a quantitative scale. However, integrating corpora in foreign language learning is still relatively uncommon in the language classroom. This talk will discuss how collocational patterns and the frequency of occurrence of linguistic constructions in a corpus can inform the everyday pedagogical practice of foreign language teachers and foster autonomous language learning. The discussion will be illustrated with examples in both Chinese and English. In this talk, I will first introduce basic concepts in corpus methods such as concordancing, POS tagging, collocations and frequency. Second, I will review extent literature to highlight the effectiveness of using corpora in language learning and teaching. I will then examine language data from a usage-based constructionist perspective to demonstrate how learners can understand core grammatical constructions and the differences between synonyms through analyzing their prototypes in a corpus. The communicative contexts revealed in the corpus can also guide teachers to develop contextualized teaching materials. The talk will conclude with a brief discussion of some useful applications of corpus methods in other fields.

BIO:

Dr. Xinjia Peng is the Lead Instructor at the Chinese Flagship Center, Brigham Young University. She received her PhD in Chinese Linguistics from University of Oregon. She also holds

concurrent MA degrees in East Asian Linguistics and Pedagogy, and Language Teaching Specialization from the same institution. Her research interests are in the integration of linguistic research and language pedagogy, as well as in the sociocultural aspect of language use. The languages she works with are modern Chinese, classical Chinese and various Chinese dialects. She has published articles and book reviews in *Teaching Chinese as a Second Language*, and has co-authored articles that appeared in *Cognitive Linguistics, Lingua Sinica* and an edited book volume *Handbook of Chinese Second Language Acquisition*. Currently she is working on three projects, one on Chinese internet neologisms, one in ideophones in Shantou dialect, and another on teaching pedagogy for achieving superior-level proficiency in Chinese.

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

Hope to see you all.

Yijun