

## **B.A. (Honours) in Contemporary English Studies**

<b>Course Title</b>	:	Contrastive Studies of English & Chinese
<b>Course Code</b>	:	ENG369
<b>Recommended Study Year</b>	:	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year
<b>No. of Credits/Term</b>	:	3
<b>Mode of Tuition</b>	:	Lecture and Tutorial
<b>Class Contact Hours</b>	:	2 hours Lecture/week 1 hour Tutorial/week
<b>Category in Major Programme</b>	:	Disciplinary Elective
<b>Prerequisite(s)</b>	:	N/A
<b>Co-requisite(s)</b>	:	N/A
<b>Exclusion(s)</b>	:	N/A
<b>Exemption Requirement(s)</b>	:	N/A

### **Brief Course Description**

The course compares and contrasts English as a target language and Chinese as a mother tongue in second language acquisition. The contrastive studies are aimed at helping students to have a better understanding of the target language and how it differs from their own, thus helping them to have a better appreciation of the problems that may be encountered in acquiring English as a second language. Students are introduced to linguistic differences between English and Chinese (Cantonese and Modern Standard Chinese) on a number of levels--phonological, lexical, grammatical and pragmatic, but principally that of lexico-grammar, the others being covered by other subjects in the programme.

### **Aims**

1. To compare and contrast major lexico-grammatical similarities and differences between Chinese and English;
2. To appreciate the similarities and the differences in ways meanings are expressed and negotiated in Chinese and English;
3. To understand linguistic behaviours and recognize output characteristics of Chinese acquisition of English as a second language.

### **Learning Outcomes**

This course provides students with a better understanding of the differences between English and Chinese and the difficulties involved in acquiring English as a second language for Chinese students.

## **Indicative Content**

1. Contrastive phonology: English and Cantonese
2. Contrastive lexicology: word formation, collocations, and semantics
3. Parts of speech in English and Chinese
4. Tense, aspect & modality in English and Chinese
5. Contrastive syntax: phrase and clause structures in English and Chinese
6. Contrastive pragmatics: pragmalinguistic variations in English and Chinese
7. Interlanguage and second language acquisition
8. Error analysis

## **Teaching Method**

Students are shown how to compare and contrast the first and second languages by looking at texts. They are also encouraged to analyze learners' outputs at different stages of language development. While lectures are mainly used to introduce concepts and analytical approaches, tutorials give students the opportunity to use their own initiative to discover the differences and similarities of the two languages among themselves, with assistance from the teacher only when required.

## **Measurement of Learning Outcomes**

The progress of learning is measured through class discussions, exercises, presentations, term papers, and a final examination.

## **Assessment**

Final examination: 50%

Continuous assessment: 50%

## **Required Readings**

Greenbaum, S., *The Oxford English Grammar*, Oxford: OUP, 1996.

Matthews, S. and Ip, V., *Cantonese: A Comprehensive Grammar*, London: Routledge, 1994.

## **Supplementary Readings**

Biber, D., *Dimensions of Register Variation: A Cross-Linguistic Comparison*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995.

Chu, Y.P., *Interdiscourse: A Step Beyond Interlanguage*, Beijing: Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press, 1991.

James, C., *Errors in Language Learning and Use: Exploring Error Analysis*. London: Longman, 1998.

- Jaszczolt, K. and Turner, K. Eds., *Contrastive Semantics and Pragmatics*, Oxford: Elsevier, 1996.
- Li C. and Thompson, S., *Mandarin Chinese: a Reference Grammar*, 1981.
- Pennington, M. C., *Phonology in English Language Teaching*, London: Longman, 1996.
- Quirk, et al., *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*, Harlow: Longman, 1985.
- Tsao, F., *Sentence and Clause Structure in Chinese: A Functional Perspective*, Taiwan: Student Book Co., 1990.
- Zhang, L., *A Contrastive Study of Aspectuality, in German, English and Chinese*, New York: P. Lang, 1995.