DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

STAFF RESEARCH AREAS

English Language
AY2015/2016

Bao Zhiming, PhD MIT, Dip Fudan
ellbaozm@nus.edu.sg

• Theoretical linguistics
• English and Chinese linguistics
• Contact linguistics
• Singapore English

Hiramoto, Mie, PhD U of Hawaii
ellmh@nus.edu.sg

Areas of general interest:
• Contact Linguistics
• Language, Gender, and Sexuality
• Media Discourse
• Language Ideology

Areas of current active interest:
• Colloquial Singapore grammatical/pragmatic features
• Media representations of masculinity through films
• Negotiations of globalization and localization phenomena through language in multiracial communities

Lazar, Michelle M, PhD Lanc, MA BA (Hons) NUS
ellmml@nus.edu.sg

• Critical Discourse Analysis
• Gender and Sexuality in Discourse
• Media Discourses (Traditional and New Media)
• Language Ideologies in Singapore
• Discourse and Identity Construction

Lee, Leslie, PhD UCSD, BA (First Class Honours) NUS
ellleel@nus.edu.sg

• Syntax
• Morphology
• Lexical semantics
• Variation
• Quantitative approaches to the study of language

Oh, Tomasina M., PhD (Cambridge) (Sabbatical Leave Sem 1 2015/2016)
elltmoss@nus.edu.sg

Areas of general interest (including areas I would like to supervise):
• Speech and language disorders in adults (with schizophrenia, dementia or dysphasia) and children (with schizophrenia, autism, specific language impairment, dysphasia, and etc.)
• Bilingual aphasia
• Reading and writing disorders in adults/children
• Language and the brain
Construction of linguistically- and culturally-appropriate assessments/test batteries for patients with language impairment

Current active interest:
- Neurocognition of bilingualism
- Bilingual aphasia
- Language impairment in schizophrenic patients with formal thought disorder

Supervision style:
As a supervisor, I will be donning several hats: Mentor, Teacher, Discussant and (often) Devil’s Advocate. Students working with me can expect to be exposed to rigorous academic research, as well as improve their thinking, writing and presentation skills. In return I expect effort, ability to follow through, a commitment to producing quality work and a willingness to learn (together). I encourage critical thought and ability to work independently. Our supervision sessions will be flexible, probably with closer supervision initially for those students who require it, and then increasing independence (sooner rather than later).

Ong, Justina, PhD NIE NTU, MA BA NUS
elljo@nus.edu.sg

Research interests:
- First and Second Language Writing and Reading
- Topics in Applied Linguistics (Language Teaching and Learning)

Ooi Beng Yeow, Vincent, PhD (Lancaster, UK) , MA BA (Hons) NUS (Sabbatical Leave Sem 1 2015/2016)
vinceooi@nus.edu.sg

Research interests:
- Corpus-based language studies and linguistic computing
- Lexicology and lexicography
- Computer-mediated communication and the World Wide Web
- Asian varieties of English and business discourse

Supervision style:
Facilitator and discussant

Pakir, Anne, PhD, Univ of Hawaii (Linguistics)
ellannep@nus.edu.sg

Areas of general interest:
- Sociolinguistics
- Applied Linguistics

Current active interest:
- Language Policy
- Language Planning
- World Englishes
- English in Southeast Asia
- Baba Malay

Supervision style:
Rather close supervision; please anticipate preparing for weekly meetings with supervisor.

Park, Joseph Sung-Yul, PhD University of California, Santa Barbara (Sabbatical Leave Sem 2 2015/2016)
ellpjs@nus.edu.sg

Current active interest:
- Language ideology: beliefs about language structure and use and their consequences for social organization
- Language and globalization: the role language plays in the process of globalization, with a focus on English as a global language
• Linguistic construction of identity: how we use language to create, negotiate, and reproduce the distinction between self and other; how this process serves as a basis for more permanent social relationships and social inequalities

Supervision style:
Students will benefit most from working with me if they are highly independent (able to know what they are interested in, taking the initiative to ask questions, able to set a schedule for research and abide by it, etc.). I tend to see myself as a discussant when interacting with students, thinking through the issue together rather than telling them what to do, and learning together rather than providing answers.

Rebecca Lurie Starr, PhD Stanford  
ellslr@nus.edu.sg

• Language acquisition
• Bilingualism
• Sociolinguistic variation in Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese, Korean, English
• Sociophonetics
• Sociolinguistics in media
• Variation in teacher speech

Yosuke Sato, ellys@nus.edu.sg

Areas of General Interest:
1. Syntactic Theory
2. Linguistic Interface (Syntax-Phonology, Syntax-Semantics, Syntax-Morphology)
3. Biolinguistics

Areas of Active Interest & Specialities:
1. Syntax of Austronesian Languages (Indonesian, Javanese, Malay)
2. Syntax, Semantics, Morphology and Phonology
3. Singapore English Grammar

Supervision Style:
My job as supervisor is to help my students produce a high-quality, original piece of research which reflects their keen sense of important issues in theoretical linguistics, rigorous data-based analyses, argumentation and critical thinking. Students who wish to work with me should consider themselves as semi-professional researchers who can talk to me as researcher-to-research, not as student-to-professor and who dare to be wrong!

Talib, Ismail Bin Said, PhD E.Anglia, MA NUS, BA Sing.  
ellibst@nus.edu.sg

Areas of general interest and expertise:
• General research on narrative
• Cinematic discourse
• Stylistics
• Postcolonial theory
• Postcolonial literatures and Singapore literature in English

Areas of current active interest:
• Narratology
• Cinematic discourse
• Singaporean literature in English
• History of postcolonial literatures
• The English language and postcolonial literatures

Style of supervision:
Students who work best with me are those who are flexible in their thinking, and liberal in their view of what can and cannot be done in scholarship. They should be independent researchers who view the supervisor as a guide, and not a person who gives detailed instructions on what to do.
Tan, Peter K W, PhD Edin., BA (Hons) Malaya
PeterTan@leonis.nus.edu.sg

1. Pragmatics and discourse analysis in interactional texts, including issues of face and politeness
2. Conversation analysis
3. History and development of English, especially in relation to English in Singapore and Malaysia
4. Power and ideology in language
5. Generic approaches to texts
6. Language in dramatic (and other literary) texts and general stylistics
7. Intertextuality: parody and irony

I am at the moment interested in the interaction between areas 3 and 6: specifically in the way English is represented in Singaporean and Malaysian fiction.

Supervision style:
I am quite open to a range of approaches (qualitative, quantitative, methods based on corpora, questionnaires and experimental data, etc.), but students should be prepared to think through the planning, direction and organisation of their research. I see my role as a discussant and as someone who can provide feedback on students' writing.

Wee Hock Ann, Lionel, PhD UC Berkeley, MA BA (Hons) NUS
ellweeha@nus.edu.sg

- Discourse-pragmatic perspectives on metaphor and metonymy
- Language and cityscapes
- New Varieties of English
- Language policy and language planning