

Organizers:

*The Halliday Centre for Intelligent Applications of Language Studies &
Department of Chinese, Translation and Linguistics*



香港城市大學
City University
of Hong Kong



The Halliday Centre for
Intelligent Applications of Language Studies
香港城市大學研究智能應用中心

Occasional Seminar Series

An Empirical Account of Adverbial Clauses and their Variation across Speech and Writing

Date : 11 September 2006 (Monday)

Time : 4:30 – 5:30 pm

Venue : B7603 (Lift 3, 7/F, Blue Zone), Academic Building, CityU

Presented by Dr. Alex Chengyu Fang

Abstract:

This talk presents an investigation of adverbial clauses in contemporary British English, embodied in the International Corpus of English. It demonstrates on the basis of empirical evidence that it is simply a misconceived notion that adverbial clauses are typically associated with informal, unplanned types of discourse and hence spoken English. The investigation initially examined samples from both spoken and written English, followed by a contrastive analysis of spontaneous and prepared speech, to be finally confirmed by a further experiment based on timed and untimed university essays. These experiments consistently produced empirical evidence which irrefutably suggests that the written genre makes far more extensive uses of adverbial clauses than speech and that adverbial clauses are a significant characteristic of planned, elaborated discourse.

Bio-sketch:

Dr. Alex Chengyu Fang is a computational linguist in corpus linguistics and natural language processing. He held various research positions in the English Department of University College London (UCL), UK, before his appointment as Deputy Director of the Survey of English Usage, UCL. He later became a Senior Research Fellow in UCL's Department of Phonetics and Linguistics and lectured in the Computer Science Department of the same university. He was Project Rapporteur for Economic and Social Sciences Research Council (UK) and an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at UCL. He is now Assistant Professor at the Department of Chinese, Translation and Linguistics, City University of Hong Kong, lecturing on computational linguistics, corpus linguistics, machine translation, and cognitive linguistics. He is also a core member of The Halliday Centre for Intelligent Applications of Language Studies.

All are welcome

Enquiry: 3442 6604 (The Halliday Centre for Intelligent Applications of Language Studies)