

Lunchtime Workshop

Promoting Attitude Change through School-Based Assessment (SBA): A Practical Approach

Speaker: Dr Andrew E. Finch

*Teachers' College,
Department of English Language Education,
Kyungpook National University, Korea*

Abstract

This workshop investigates the use of SBA methods to promote positive attitude change in teachers and students, on the principle that increased awareness of the factors involved in language learning produces informed attitude modification, leading to improved self-esteem, intrinsic motivation and more effective and self-directed learning. The research has been ongoing for more than three years, using an interactive/reflective learning journal to promote group discussion of relevant issues (in class) followed by individual personal reflection (out of class), in conjunction with portfolios, projects, student-based test-design, and self/peer-assessment. Students report their perceptions regarding: i) affective factors (confidence, motivation, anxiety); ii) classroom-based assessment (self/peer-assessment, portfolios); and iii) attitudinal modifications. These reports, along with analysis of the language used in them, provide a basis for the identification of attitude change.

Results show growing awareness of the role of attitudes in learning, along with increased confidence and motivation, and improved performance skills.

Dr Andrew Finch is associate professor of English Education at Kyungpook National University, in the Republic of Korea. His research interests include alternative assessment, task-based materials design, and language-learning as education of the whole person. In addition to being an advisor for the national CSAT exam, Dr Finch is currently engaged in a project in which task-based teaching is being used by high school teachers in Korean high schools, despite the test-driven learning environment of those schools. Dr Finch has co-authored a teacher-training book about Classroom-Based Assessment, along with a number of interactive, student-centred, language-learning textbooks, in which alternative assessment plays an important part. These can be accessed at www.finchpark.com/books.

Dr Finch's visitorship to the University of Hong Kong is funded by the HKU Constituent Theme – Languages, Media and Communication: Language in Education and Assessment.

21 November 2006 (Tuesday), 12:45 – 2:00 p.m.

LG01, Hui Oi Chow Science Building, The University of Hong Kong

Chair: Dr David Carless, Faculty of Education, HKU

**All are welcome. Registration: Miss Scarlet Poon, Tel: 2859 2395,
Email: scarletws@hku.hk**

This workshop is co-organised with Office of Research, Faculty of Education, HKU.