

# Mainland Chinese Undergraduates' English-learning Experiences in Hong Kong: A Case Study focusing on Learning Strategy Use

**HKU Constituent Theme-  
Languages, Media & Communication:  
Language in Education & Assessment Seminar Series**  
~co-hosted by the Faculties of Arts and Education,  
in collaboration with the English Centre

## Speaker

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LG 01, Hui Oi Chow Science Building, HKU

## Abstract

This presentation reports on a case study of a Putonghua-speaking mainland Chinese student's language learning experiences in an English medium university in Hong Kong. Drawing on a two-year longitudinal ethnographic research study focusing on the participant's language learning strategy use, the data reveal that her English-learning efforts were both constrained and facilitated by the Cantonese-dominant sociocultural context. Her linguistic and cultural background also contributed to the complications in her struggle for better English. Using a sociocultural interpretative framework, the presentation argues that language learners' biographical experiences are important avenues to understand learners' strategic learning efforts as complicated phenomena emerging from the interplay between learners' agency and contextual structure. In addition, experiential accounts seem to problematize the English medium instruction in contexts where dominant languages for socialization are other than English, particularly in light of a constructivistic/collaborative imprint on tertiary pedagogy.

**GAO, Xuesong (Andy)** is a doctoral candidate at English Centre/ Faculty of Education, the University of Hong Kong. He is currently working on a longitudinal study on mainland Chinese students' language learning strategy use in Hong Kong. He has papers published or accepted in journals including *System*, *AJELT*, *RELC Journal*, and *Research in Post-compulsory Education*.

This seminar is co-organized with  
Office of Research, Faculty of Education, HKU.

All are Welcome. Enquiries: 2859 2395