Trip Report from 2018 International Conference on EMI

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Fortunately, after submitting the abstract of my paper, I was invited to attend the 2018 International Conference on English Medium Instruction from Nov 23 to Nov 25 in 2018 in Guangzhou, Mainland China, where I gave a 20-minutes presentation. I am so grateful for having this chance, which benefitted me a lot.

Scholars from over 16 countries and areas attended the conference and some famous scholars gave presentations to share their latest findings and ideas. There was a pre-conference workshop, a plenary session and a break-out session in this conference.

On Nov 23, there was a workshop about corpus aids in EMI. In this workshop, Professor Hu and three other researchers talked about the significance and actual application of corpus aids in teaching and learning, which gave me an idea of utilizing corpus in my own teaching.

On Nov 24, Ernesto Macaro, Professor Emeritus of Applied Linguistics at the University of Oxford and founding Director of the Centre for Research and Development in English Medium Instruction (EMI Oxford), was the first plenary speaker. He gave a 60-minute presentation about the ideal competencies of the English Medium Instruction teacher His talk included the definition of EMI, the drivers for EMI growth, the different models of EMI that are currently being developed, subject classification of EMI, Cambridge Assessment, and the definition of "competencies". Then, Professor Anwei Feng, from the University of Nottingham Ningbo (China) talked about EMI as an approach to nurturing global talents. Professor Feng not only addressed the advantages of EMI as an educational approach but also suggested that EMI as an approach can help nurture global talents. For example, young people who are rooted in a given locality will learn to mediate between cultures, to have eyes on both local and global challenges and to seek ways to solve confront these challenges.

On the afternoon of Nov 24, there was break-out session and I was one of the presenters. I was a little nervous before giving my 20-minute presentation since it was the first time for me to present at a conference. Owing to my extensive preparation before the conference, luckily, I completed my presentation with organized structured and good time control.

I learned a lot from the other presenters and got more ideas about EMI since some researchers use EMI in their practical teaching—for example, in the teaching of math. The experience, in short, provided me with useful insights concerning the possibilities for EMI.

Thanks to the support of the ELC, I was able to attend this conference, which is sure to be beneficial to my research and my teaching.

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