

Conference Trip Report :
12th Researching and Applying Metaphor Conference,
Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Xin ZHANG

The international postgraduate roundtable and research forum was held at the Education University of Hong Kong from July 3 to July 6, 2018 with the objective of bringing distinguished academics, postgraduate students and experts together to present their work to people of diverse cultures and communities. More than 200 participants from 10 countries/regions participated in this Forum. In addition, this conference provided latest in research methodology and assessment in education and social science.

The speech provided by Prof. Phil Benson was helpful. It revealed how to use a literature review to frame a research problem and approach. One of the workshops talked about the idea of sharing research within an intercultural community effectively, providing practical tips and suggestions on how to deliver research effectively.

I reported a pilot study of the effectiveness of improving oral performance through the adoption of mobile-assisted language learning. Despite a large quantity of research having proved the strengths and effectiveness of MALL, little is known about students' perceptions of mobile-assisted language learning or the effectiveness of using MALL to improve spoken English. Two classes of students were recruited. One class, the control group, did not adopt MALL; the other class, the experimental group, did. The study compared pre-test and post-test results of students' oral performance by using the IELTS Speaking Band Descriptors. The results showed a positive attitude of students toward MALL. The analysis of the tests demonstrated the feasibility of MALL in improving college students' spoken English. There was a minor difference between students' pretest oral English grades and the students' post-test oral English grades, which proved the certain effect of MALL. A post-study questionnaire along with qualitative data (interviews) should be adopted to enhance the reliability of the research results.