

Conference Name: TESOL China Assembly-Conference Report

Date: July 27-30, 2023

Presenter: Grace Zheng

From July 27 to July 30, I participated in the 2023 International Conference on English Education in China, held in Macau. During this event, I delivered an academic presentation based on my MA TESOL graduation thesis from the University of Leeds, which received a "Distinction" grade. My dissertation, titled "Enhancing Reading Proficiency in Chinese EFL Students through Strategy-Based Training: An Action Research Study," was shared with fellow English teachers attending the same sub-conference. I outlined the research background, theoretical framework, methodology, findings, and conclusion, emphasizing the importance of pedagogical action research in EFL classrooms and the diverse data collection methods used.

Additionally, I attended plenary sessions featuring presentations from esteemed scholars, where a consistent theme emerged: the growing importance of technology, particularly artificial intelligence (AI), in shaping English pedagogy. Professor Icy Lee highlighted AI's potential to enhance feedback mechanisms in instruction, including automating grading tasks, but stressed that AI cannot replace educators' foundational roles. Educators are tasked with cultivating character and fostering diverse proficiencies, areas where AI falls short, especially in nurturing EFL learners' creativity and critical thinking.

Professor David Nunan emphasized the internet's profound impact, blurring the lines between classroom language acquisition and real-world application. The rise of electronic devices and cross-cultural interactions has merged these boundaries, enabling simultaneous language learning and practical application. He noted that electronic tools and online platforms can enhance educators' teaching efforts but cautioned that a careful approach to technology use is essential due to its dual nature.

Inspired by these insights, I'm contemplating how to focus on teaching tasks that AI cannot perform, enhancing my value as an educator. In my future work, I will remain an active, forward-thinking English teacher, engage in academic conferences, stay updated on new teaching trends, and guide my students to become skilled users of English and global citizens.

