The 2nd International Conference on Language and Learning 2021

19-20 June 2021

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The two-day international conference on language and learning was held by The Education University of Hong Kong from 19 June to 20 June 2021. Since this conference focuses on language-in-education policy and practice in the digital area, I have learned cutting-edge insights on digital learning, which shed light on my teaching practice and educational innovation project.

This conference aimed to explore how technology has impacted policy, curriculum, and pedagogy in language education and how it will impact the future of language policy and practice. It invited six world-leading scholars in this field, including Angel Lin, Li Wei, Hayo Reinders, Judith Green, and Ernesto Macaro. One of the thought-provoking speeches was given by Prof. Ernesto Macaro from the University of Oxford. Drawing on previous studies, he delivered a presentation entitled "English Medium Instruction Research: what do we know so far and what do we still need to find out". He summarized findings to date on EMI and offered recommendations on what research still needs to be done and how we need to develop a more collaborative community of practice. He emphasized that to achieve real progress with EMI pedagogy, there must be a research partnership between applied linguists and content specialists. In addition, recommended collaboration is urgently needed for consistent and focused EMI programs, as general EAP is not enough.

Besides the keynote speeches, I attended parallel sessions which covered different themes like technology and language teaching, curriculum and syllabus design, and language policy and planning.

As a presenter, I reported on my study on the effectiveness of Aptis as a university exit test. This case study has analyzed the Aptis test under two theoretical frameworks: Bachman's Assessment Argument (2005) and Test Usefulness Framework (1996). The results reveal the positive effect of the use of the proficiency test named Aptis for this purpose in this context and provide insights for practitioners, policymakers, and administrators.

In a word, attending this conference was a fruitful and rewarding experience. I enriched my

knowledge of using technology in both language learning and teaching. It helped me conduct technology-driven research and contribute more sophisticated designed pedagogical materials to Level 2 and my current curriculum reform project.