

Conference Name: ICELEAL (online) Conference Report

Date: December 6-9, 2022

Presenter: Xin Zhang

I attended the four-day International Congress on English Language Education and Applied Linguistics (ICELEAL) from December 6 to 9, 2022. This joint conference was co-organized by the Department of English Language Education, the Department of Linguistics and Modern Language Studies, and the Centre for Research on Linguistics and Language Studies at The Education University of Hong Kong, along with four collaborating universities: Beijing Foreign Studies University, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, South China Normal University, and the City University of Macau. The informative keynote speeches, oral presentations, symposiums, and workshops on ‘corpus-based language learning and teaching,’ ‘technology-enhanced language learning and teaching,’ and ‘machine translation’ made it an inspiring experience.

The conference brought together academics from around the world to share research related to technology-enhanced language learning and corpus-based language learning. Notably, Prof. Tang Jinlan from Beijing Foreign Studies University delivered a keynote speech titled "AI-assisted English Language Instruction: Practice and Implications," discussing how emerging technologies, including big data, cloud computing, and artificial intelligence, are transforming English teaching, assessment, and learning.

Additionally, two workshops focused on technology-enhanced language learning, providing hands-on training in building game-based 3D virtual learning environments and e-resources. Dr. Lan emphasized that VR offers enormous potential for (1) active learner involvement, (2) authentic contexts, and (3) meaningful social interaction when activities are learner-centered, leveraging the features of virtual reality to create authentic contexts.

The conference featured presentations covering themes such as intercultural communication, technology in English education, and innovations in ESP curriculum. Dr. Ho discussed the challenges and innovations in designing the English-in-the-Discipline course at the University of Hong Kong, integrating genre-based and process-based approaches. Speakers from Shenzhen MSU-BIT University shared their experiences addressing challenges in teaching ESP to undergraduates, emphasizing the importance of selecting teaching materials that meet students’ language needs in their professional domains.

Overall, this international conference fostered discussion and exchange between researchers and practitioners, providing cutting-edge insights into English language education and applied linguistics, particularly regarding the use of VR in language learning.