Conference Name: 1st APSCE International Conference on Future Language Learning

Date: July 1-3, 2022

Presenter: Yunier Sarduy

The 1st APSCE International Conference on Future Language Learning (ICFULL) 2022 took place online from July 1 to 3. My paper, titled "nEWAT: Combining Human and Automatic Assessment of Writing in a Rule-based System," co-authored by Louise Luo, was accepted for a virtual oral presentation during the second session, chaired by Dr. Yun Wen from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

In my presentation, I elaborated on the design and features of nEWAT, a web-based platform that automatically assesses students' writing in English. The application is a rule-based system created by a team of researchers from ELC led by me. It uses NLP techniques and knowledge bases extracted from human experts to evaluate, score, and provide feedback on 15 aspects of academic writing.

Organized by the Asia Pacific Society of Computers in Education (APSCE) and hosted by The Education University of Hong Kong, ICFULL focuses on innovation in language learning, making my proposal highly relevant to the conference.

I attended two interesting keynote speeches: one titled "Technology Enhanced Seamless Language Learning Environment" by Dr. Noriko Uosaki from Osaka University, and the other titled "The Future of Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL) Research" by Prof. Jozef Colpaert from The University of Antwerp, Belgium. While the latter argued for active research methods for language learning and how to cope with the multidisciplinarity problem in CALL, Dr. Uosaki provided insight into the advantages and disadvantages of technology in language learning.

In terms of conference management and organization, I was impressed by the platform used for virtual poster presentations. It was conducted on a virtual social networking platform called Gather Town. On this platform, poster presenters and their audience use their avatars to "walk" around the venue, socialize with other participants online, and visit different rooms to view various posters and presentations by the authors. I would recommend that ELC explores this option for future international conferences.