



Language Centre

UNIVERSITI BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

**SPEAK.
GROW.**

Guest lecture by His Excellency John Virgoe



H. E. John Virgoe delivering his lecture at UBD.

On Wednesday 17th February 2021, His Excellency John Virgoe, the British High Commissioner to Brunei, was invited to the Language Centre to give a guest lecture to students of the ELCS module LE 2503, titled “ASEAN from multiple perspectives: the view from afar”. The lecture was attended by 150 students from the module, as many as were allowed under social distancing regulations. His Excellency was warmly received by Dr Yabit, Director of the Language Centre, as well as Dr Sarah Boye, Programme Leader for ELCS at LC, who also gave her welcoming remarks before the lecture. His Excellency spoke on wide-ranging issues currently facing ASEAN, as well as a fascinating perspective on the history of ASEAN and its relations with other nations and blocs, particularly the UK and the EU.



H. E. John Virgoe with other UBD lecturers

LC-SHBIE joint research project

A jointly funded research project between Language Centre staff, Dr Sarah Boye and Dr Ishamina Athirah Muntassir Gardiner, together with SHBIE’s Deputy Dean of Research, Associate Professor Dr Andrew Littlejohn as Principal Investigator, has recently been completed. The research project, entitled “Teachers’ and learners’ perceptions of classroom language learning tasks”, aimed to investigate school teachers’ and learners’ perspectives regarding the purposes and value of classroom work in order to further understand causes of success and failure in the language classroom. An innovative methodology using Personal Construct Repertory Grids was employed in this project to discover the participants’ perceptions with minimal influence from the researchers, allowing participants to ‘speak for themselves’. The results show significant differences in how teachers and learners view classroom work. For teachers, a class is a “pedagogic event”, while the students have a more “social and affective orientation” towards the classroom. The research team has produced three research papers which are currently under review in Scopus-indexed journals.

ELCS research study on EMI in Brunei

The English Language and Communication Studies (ELCS) team at the Language Centre has recently completed a research study entitled “The Impact of EMI education on undergraduate students”. The study aimed to explore undergraduate students’ perspectives of EMI (English Medium Instruction) at UBD to gain more understanding about their language use and experience of EMI in a higher education context. The survey study was carried out through the distribution of online questionnaires to UBD undergraduate students taking LE-modules at the Language Centre over a period of two years. The resulting data show that translanguaging (the use of two or more languages) in English and Malay is prevalent among students in social and academic settings. This is not surprising as the students have undergone bilingual education from an early age. An important implication from the findings points towards the acceptance of multilingual practices in EMI classes which can contribute to the wider discussion of its effectiveness on learner outcomes. The research team has recently produced a paper about this study for an edited volume about EMI in Multilingual Universities in Asia which will be published by Routledge early next year.



Language course for Arabic school teachers



إدارة ورشة لغة المعلمين، لمعلمي المدارس العربية ببروناي،
بجامعة سري بكاوان التربوية الدينية في الفترة من 19 فبراير إلى
29 أبريل 2020

Dr Mohamed Mohi El-Din had successfully facilitated a language course for Arabic school teachers from 19th February to 29th April 2020 at Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (KUPU-SB). The course, which was a collaboration between UBD's Language Centre and KUPU-SB, aimed at training Arabic school teachers in Brunei in developing their Arabic language skills and teaching methodology. Upon completion of the course, Dr Mohi received a certificate of appreciation from Yang Mulia Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Haji Bahrom Bin Pengiran Haji Bahar, the Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs.

Research study on Language Economy by LC staff

A research study entitled "Language economy and its implications for language teaching: data and evidence" was conducted by Dr. Balazs Huszka (Principal Investigator), Yuki Akita, Min Shen and Nor'Azmah Yunus. The study aimed to address an issue in the language economy concerning the dynamic nature of languages and their pursuit for simplicity. The data analysed in the study were based on examples from written and spoken forms of the German, Japanese and Chinese media. An important question raised concerns how the seemingly "ungrammatical" forms of these languages, which occur in certain about contexts on the levels of phonetics and phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics. and lexis, are widely used by the native speakers of those languages and whether these forms can and should be included in foreign language teaching at tertiary level. Based on the findings, it is suggested that in order to make learners' language production more natural, advanced learners of any given foreign language should be exposed to potential grammatical "errors" that native speakers make and to dialectal differences to the standard. The research team have recently published a paper on the study in LingPoet: Journal of Linguistics and Literary Research.

제75회 한국어능력시험(TOPIK) 안내 75th TEST OF PROFICIENCY IN KOREAN LANGUAGE (TOPIK) on 11 July 2021



브루나이대학교 언어센터에서는 2021년 7월 11일에 주 브루나이 대한민국 대사관과 공동 주관으로 한국어능력시험을 실시합니다.

Test of Proficiency in Korean Language (TOPIK) will be held on 11th July 2021 at the Language Centre, UBD, in cooperation with the Korean embassy. Only TOPIK 1 (for beginner's level) will be carried out at this time (TOPIK II will not be included). TOPIK is designed to assess and certify the language proficiency of learners of Korean as a foreign language, where applicants for TOPIK 1 will be tested on their Listening and Reading skills. Registration details will be announced in April 2021 on the Language Centre website and the Korean Embassy website at <http://overseas.mofa.go.kr/bn-en/index.do>. If the number of TOPIK applicants is fewer than 5, the test will be cancelled. For more information, please visit the TOPIK website (www.topik.go.kr)

CONSULTANCY AND SERVICES

Language Centre offers consultancy in Language Programmes and in Premium Editorial Services (proofreading, editing and translation)

Please contact these following officers for further inquiries:

1. Language Programme Consultant - Suciayati Haji Sulaiman
2. Premium Editorial Services Coordinator - Liyana Putri Hj Abd Ghani

UPDATES & ACTIVITIES



The Language Centre, UBD, in collaboration with the Academy of Language Studies of Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM, Kedah), will be holding a joint-conference on the 9th to 11th November 2021, with the theme "Education 5.0 – Exploring New Frontiers in Language and Education". There will be a round-table discussion around the theme "The Future of Teaching in the Digital Age: Opportunities and Challenges" by invited speakers from UBD and UiTM, as well as an innovation competition entitled "International Creative Presentation Award (ICPA)" which is open for all students. For more information and registration to join the conference, please visit the website <https://iintelecuitm.wixsite.com/iintelec2021>

LANGUAGE CENTRE SEMINAR SERIES

Language economy and its implications for language teaching: Data and evidence.

Dr Balazs Huszka, Yuki Akita,
Min Shen & Nor'Azmah Yunus
(Jan 27, 2021)

Student perspectives of English Medium Instruction (EMI) in Brunei: Attitudes towards language use in the classroom.

Dr Ishamina Athirah Muntassir (Gardiner)
(Feb 10, 2021)

Innovations in pronunciation instruction for SE learners of English as a foreign language.

Dr Sarah Boye
(Mar 03, 2021)

*Click on Seminar Title for more details.

UBD-EPT Click Here for details

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