/bits and baits/ UM Linguists

Faculty of Languages and Linguistics Issue 7, July 2020



The "/bits and baits/ UM Linguists" is Faculty of Languages and Linguistics' e-newsletter run by the FLL eBulletin Team. This e-newsletter, published on a quarterly basis, is created to keep affiliates and those interested up to date with news and research from the faculty.



Thank you Thank you for your Dedication and Contribution!

Three wonderful women Each a unique specimen Each a differently cut diamond. Baya, The Gentle, Norizah, The Lively, Mei Lin, The Friendly. Three women who have blest our lives here in FLL in more ways than they would ever know. We bid you not a solemn adieu but send our sincere prayers to each, that peace, joy and favour would stay within your reach, as you leave us to pay your dues to yet another calling that has long awaited your touch of blessing.

A poem alas does not allow me to say a lot more ... and as I am not up to writing cantos, I have escaped to good old prose to express a little bit more about these three special ladies. As one who straddles between 2 depts (ELD & JBMLT), I have had the privilege to have Mei Lin, Nurbaya and Dr. Norizah as my HoD. It was always a pleasure to work with them & it is in the little things that they did for some of us that I saw their big hearts...so a story here for each as a tribute.

Dear Mei Lin, I have known you the longest and so it is difficult to pick just one story but I will always remember you for taking time to sit and talk to get to know us and find out how we were doing...once when you wanted to hand over a task and I was there in your office, you took time to think of who had little ones to take care of or who lived really far away etc etc before deciding who would be able to handle the task without being unduly stressed. For you, work was not just to be discharged without putting in some thought for the person behind the name. Thank you for your every kindness to many of us.



Previous and Current HoDs, back in 2004



Dr Teoh and her colleagues, back in 2005

To dear Nurbaya, the strength of your calm, quiet and kind spirit is an outstanding gift. This spirit touched me one frenzied day when you said " Vanie, go have a good time on your conference trip..I'll get the documents for Printis checked myself"...the 100 plus pages of the Maya Manual had come in just a few days before my leaving for a conference abroad so what a relief it was when my HoD said go and don't worry abt it. A kindness I will never forget and I did have a great trip.





Dr Nurbaya and her Organising Committee, UMDS 2019

Dr Nurbaya with Dr Jariah

And, Dr. Norizah...whom I have never addressed in any other way because I didn't know you so well but last semester when I sat in for 3 days with JBMLT's curriculum review sessions, I saw your lively camaraderie with all the Indian and Chinese division staff and how you made sure Elan had his vegetarian food and kept asking if he was happy with the meals. Little gestures like that go a long way. I saw too how your comments on the review came with a firm gentleness never overpowering another's views. Those 3 full days of working with you and my JBMLT colleagues will always be fondly remembered.



Dr Norizah and Dr Teoh's last Graduation ceremony

ELD Get Together

These are the things that make coming to work a joy and the three of you were a part of that joy. May you each continue to touch lives every where you go. God bless.

Dr Krishnavanie Shunmugam Senior Lecturer, English Language Department

Erasmus + Grant on Sustainable Development Goals in Journalism Reporting (SDGsJR)

A team of researchers from the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics and the Faculty of Medicine, led by Dr Charity Lee, secured a research grant funded by the European Union's Erasmus+ foundation. The three-year grant (2019 - 2022) is part of a multinational project involving nine research teams from Europe and Asia. The project aims to build capacity in higher education staff, media organisations and journalism graduates. Guided by the team from Universidade de Santiago de Compostela (Spain), research teams from Romania, Luxembourg, Cambodia, China and Malaysia will develop course offerings related to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs) for journalism training in their countries.

After an initial meeting in Santiago, Spain in February 2020, the teams began Phase 1. This involved identifying SDG training needs among academics/researchers, journalists and journalism students in each country. Next, they will develop locally relevant materials to incorporate SDGs into journalism/media courses. The project aims to help journalism students contribute to the nation's sustainable development through free, independent and pluralistic media.



Members of the SDGsJR Team



After the English Language department's pre-board meeting on 21 July 2020, Prof. Dr. Stefanie Pillai generously shared with the staff on how they could plan for their academic journey at the Cube, FLL. The sharing session began with a self-assessment of current status, interests, talents, strengths, weaknesses and roadblocks. Then, she guided the participants on what they should do now to get to where they want to be by a particular point in time. The advice and key takeaways given were indeed very practical and helpful in one's career planning.



Engaging Session with the Lecturers

Managing your Research Project and Outputs

On 27 July 2020, Prof. Dr. Stefanie Pillai conducted a workshop for the academics of Faculty of Languages and Linguistics at Learning Space, FLL. The two-hour workshop highlighted ways to manage research projects following the principles of project management. Among the elements discussed in the interactive workshop includes outputs, time management, potential roadblocks, project management including checkpoints and self-monitoring, outcome-based expenditure and use of resources, data management and sharing, ethical considerations and accountability. The practical tips helped the participants to have a better idea of research project management.



Prof. Dr. Stefanie Pillai and the participants of the workshop

Tips and Strategies: Targeting International/National Research Funding



Prof. Azirah Hashim has been actively involved in several local and international projects and the current ones that she leads are Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education project, 'Building research capacity in higher education institutions in Laos and Malaysia' and the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on 'ASEAN and EU in Dialogue'. In the workshop on 23 July 2020, Prof. Azirah has kindly shared with us the tips and strategies to secure international and national research grants. Her insights have helped the academics to have a deeper understanding of the different types of grants, the trending research topics and the role of networking in finding research partners in collaborative intra-regional and interregional projects.

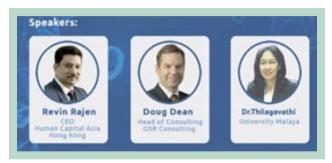
Language Practice and Identity Formation

On 29 July 2020, Dr. Ng Lee Luan share with us her findings from her research project which was related to labour migrants' identity formation, language acquisition and acculturation processes. In line with UM's policy on Covid-19, the seminar was held at the Learning Space and broadcast live using Google Meet so that students who are not allowed to be on campus yet could also listen to her presentation.



Dr. Ng Lee Luan sharing her findings

Webinar on Leadership in Times of Covid-19 and Beyond



Dr. Thilagavathi Shanmuganathan was invited to share her expertise in a free live webinar organized by the Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) on 6 June 2020. The webinar, streamed live using ZOOM, discussed the ways businesses can strategise to face volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity.

New Normal of Language in Internationalization of Education

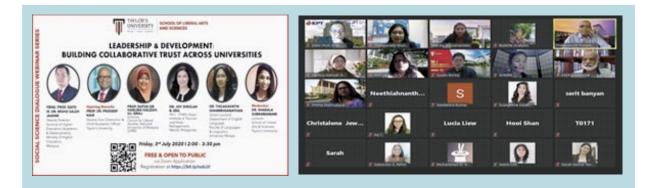


Details of the Online Forum

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jariah Mohd Jan was invited to talk about the new normal in education and the ways education would move forward. The online forum, organized by Institute of Teacher Education, Kota Bharu Campus (IPGKKB), was held on 23 June 2020 on Google Meet and moderated by Dr. Mohd Razi Ismail, the Head of International Unit, JPPI, IPGKKB. The panel members were Dr. Mohd Azrul Azlen Abd Hamid from International Islamic University Malaysia (UIAM) and Dr. Hjh. Narita Mohd Noor from IPGKKB.

Webinar @ Taylors

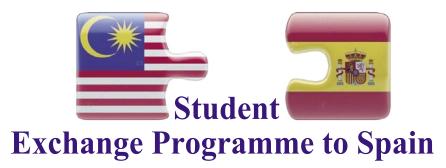
On 3rd July 2020, Dr. Thilagavathi presented at the Social Science Dialogue Webinar Series on Leadership and Development. Her title was 'How to Create, Prioritise, and Build Relationships' with the Educational Institutions and Other Organizations. She proposed the 5Rs - Revisit, Research, Recreate, Renew, and Reconcile as a way forward in these Covid times. The webinar was streamed live and Zoom meet. About 120 international participants attended this webinar.



Online Talk: Introducing Spanish Culture through Football



The Spanish Division organized an online La Liga talk by Amanda García, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). Spanish Lecturer from Spain, and Giorgio Pompili, the La Liga Delegate in Malaysia. Held on Google Meet on 8 May 2020, the talk aimed to introduce students to Spanish culture through football, one of Spain's biggest attractions. The speakers selected 4 cities, Seville, Barcelona, Madrid and Valencia, and spoke on their monuments, traditional food, famous citizens, and of course, football teams.



3 Spanish division students are in Spain on an outbound exchange programme. Nur Adlina Hishammudon Shah and Nurin Nusratina Ramlan are at Universidad de Alicante, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras for 6 months while Muhammad Zaki Salim, is at Universidad La Rioja, Facultad de Letra y de la Educación for 6 months. French division student, Aysha Zamuel, has just completed a one-year outbound exchange programme at Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO).



Aysha Zamuel



In June, the German Programme conducted for the first time online interviews for potential students. 2 panels interviewed 51 candidates for the 20 available places. Candidates had earlier sent in video resumes.



The Panel Members: Ms Soong Pei Ru, Ms Koh Yi Chern, Dr Charity Lee Chin Ai & Mr Brian Trenaman

Aid given to Thai Migrant Workers in Malaysia

The Thai Islamic Medical Association (TIMA) set up a Special Committee to help Thai migrant workers in Malaysia during the Covid19 pandemic. Thai language teacher, Ms. Rosenun Chesof, is a co-founder and secretariat member. In April, the association signed a letter of agreement with Pertubuhan Gabungan Bantuan Bencana NGO Malaysia (BBNGO), to help Thais facing difficulties during the Movement Control Order (MCO).

Ms. Chesof has also been online explaining the situation in Malaysia to Thais. A Facebook group "ช่วยพี่น้องในมาเลย์" or 'Helping Relatives in Malaysia' was created to translate news on Covid-19 and the MCO, from Malay or English into Thai to help them. There are 9,586 members in the group. In addition, she has spoken on "Covid-19 among Thais overseas" (Facebook live Talk organized by Civil Society Council of the Southernmost Thailand), "Diplomacy and human rights: Thai migrant workers in Malaysia and their problem getting back to Thailand" (seminar organized by Faculty of Law, Thammasat University, Bangkok legal clinic and Hanns Seidel Foundation, Germany) and "Women, love, cross the border and covid-19 pandemic" (online seminar, Walailak University, Nakon Sri Thammarat Thailand).



Editorial Team: Dr. Shangeetha R.K., Dr. Chew Shin Yi & Dr. Veronica Lowe Designer: En. Ramlan Sulaiman Advisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jariah Mohd Jan