



**UNIVERSITI
MALAYA**

*Faculty of Languages
and Linguistics*

/bits and barts/ UM Linguists

Faculty of Languages and Linguistics
Issue 8, 2021



THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENDATIONS 2020

The Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation recognises and honours individuals and organisations who promote amity between Japan and other countries. This year, the Japanese Language Programme was selected for promoting Japanese Language Education in Malaysia. Established in 1998, UM's Japanese programme is the only one in Malaysia to award a Bachelor's Degree in Japanese Language and Linguistics. The programme also organises exchange study programmes with Japanese universities and internships at Japanese companies to give students a better understanding of Japan.

Mr. Ong Shyi Nian
Senior Lecturer, Asian and European Languages Department

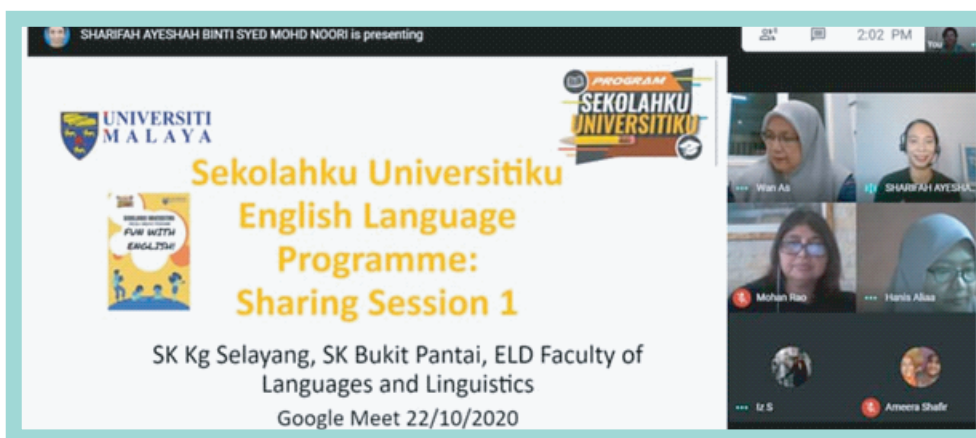


H.E. Oka Hiroshi, Japanese Ambassador to Malaysia (center)
visited the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics in December 2019

Sekolahku Universitiku English Language Programme: Fun with English!

Despite the MCO, a student volunteer team from FLL's English Language Department participated in the Sekolahku Universitiku programme by creating fun English language modules for primary school students. Sekolahku Universitiku is a Ministry of Higher Education effort to develop humanistic graduates through community programmes with schools. In collaboration with UM's Student Affairs Division, the ELD team conducted the English Language Programme for students and teachers of SK Bukit Pantai and SK Kg Selayang. Thirteen undergraduate students led by Adam Hakimi and Nurin Hassan were advised by Dr. Ruth Ong, Dr. Ayesah Syed, Dr. Chew Shin Yi, Dr. Shangeetha Rajah Kumaran and Dr. Azlin Zainal. Programme preparation and delivery were conducted virtually from June to October 2020. The team created the English is Fun module, comprising a printed book and an accompanying website with language activities for primary school students. The programme began with an online sharing session with the school teachers, in which the teachers responded positively to the materials. The printed modules were then sent to the schools.

Dr. Ayesah Syed
Senior Lecturer, English Language Department



Sharing Session by Dr Shangeetha and Dr Ayesah with the English Teachers



Printed modules handed over to Sekolah Kebangsaan Bukit Pantai

10th MELTA International Research Conference in English Language Education (MIRCELE Online 2020)

Three teams from the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics, Universiti Malaya participated in the 10th MELTA International Research Conference in English Language Education online (MIRCELE Online 2020) on the 7th of November 2020. This was the first time the conference was held virtually. Three renowned international speakers were featured during the conference: Prof Dr Low Ee Ling from National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; Assoc Prof Dr Troy McConachy from the University of Warwick, United Kingdom; and Assoc Prof Dr Janet Scull from Monash University, Australia.

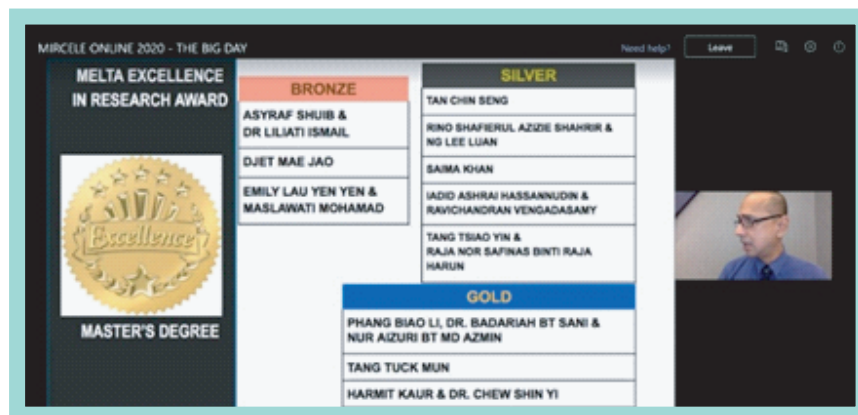
The three teams competed for the MELTA Excellence in Research awards in the Master's category. Extended abstracts submitted were reviewed by a panel of experts before they were accepted for the conference. The teams won MELTA Excellence in Research Awards:

Gold Award

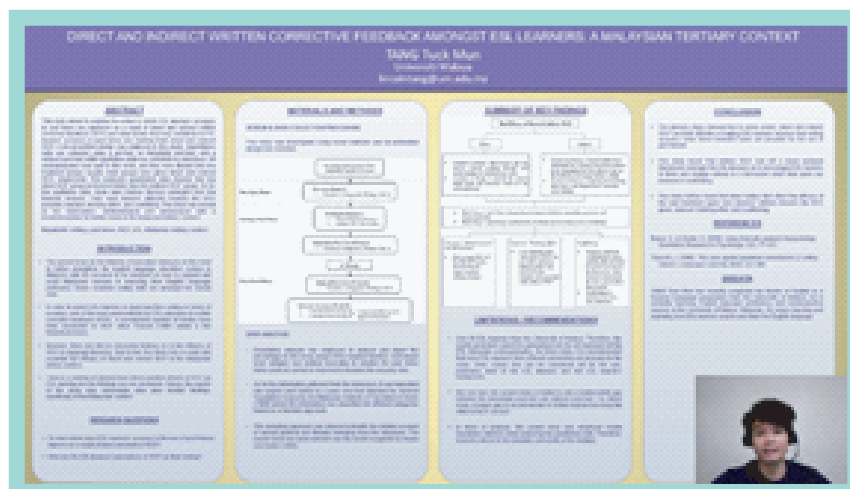
1. Tang Tuck Mun
2. Harmit Kaur & Dr Chew Shin Yi

Silver Award

Rino Shafierul Azizie Shahrir & Dr Ng Lee Luan



President of MELTA, Assoc Prof Dr Ramesh Nair announcing the winners



Gold award winner, Tang Tuck Mun presenting during the online conference

Sharing Sessions by FLL Academics

The academics from Faculty of Languages and Linguistics, Universiti Malaya participated in webinars, forums, symposiums, public lectures, interviews and conferences.

1. Language Power in Manipulating

Guest speaker : Dr. Chew Shin Yi
Organiser : Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin
Date : 11 August 2020



2. Re-thinking Applied Linguistics and Language Education in Multilingual ASEAN in Pandemic Times: The New Normal

Moderator : Prof. Dr. Azirah Hashim
Organiser : AILA-ASEAN
Date : 10 September 2020



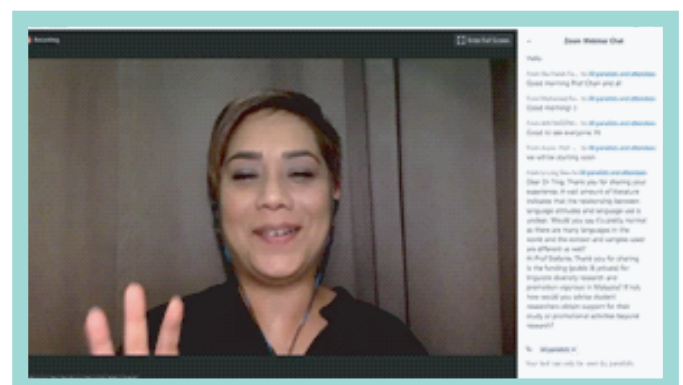
3. 18th Atma Jaya Annual Linguistics Conference (KOLITA 18)

Guest speaker : Prof. Dr. Stefanie Shamila Pillai
Organiser : Universitas Katolik Indonesia Atma Jaya
Date : 16 – 18 September 2020



4. Supporting Linguistic Diversity in Malaysia through Research: A Sharing of Field Work Experience

Guest speaker : Prof. Dr. Stefanie Shamila Pillai
Organiser : Malaysian Association of Applied Linguistics (MAAL)
Date : 29 September 2020



5. Using Technology to Enhance English Language Learning

Guest speaker : Dr. Chew Shin Yi

Organiser : School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Taylor's University

Date : 2 October 2020

The poster features the title 'Using Technology to Enhance English Language Learning' at the top. Below the title are eight circular portraits of speakers, arranged in two rows of four. The top row includes Dr. Kalai Vaani, Ms. Thavamalar Thuraisingam, Dr. Chew Shin Yi, Mr. Sean Smith, and Ms. Kayo Taguchi. The bottom row includes Ms. Prema Ponnudurai and Ms. Judith Nesamalar. The event details 'October 2nd, 2020, 10.00am – 12.00pm, Zoom Meeting' are prominently displayed in the center. Logos for Taylor's University and the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences are in the top right corner. A QR code and a URL are in the bottom right corner. The email 'pereira.j@taylor.edu.my' is in the bottom left corner.

Using Technology to Enhance English Language Learning

**October 2nd, 2020
10.00am – 12.00pm
Zoom Meeting**

Speakers:

- Dr. Kalai Vaani, Taylor's University, Senior Lecturer
- Ms. Thavamalar Thuraisingam, Taylor's University, Senior Lecturer
- Dr. Chew Shin Yi, Universiti Malaya, Senior Lecturer
- Mr. Sean Smith, British Council, Head of Adults Malaysia
- Ms. Kayo Taguchi, Pearson, ELT Portfolio Manager
- Ms. Prema Ponnudurai, Taylor's University, Opening Speech
- Ms. Judith Nesamalar, Taylor's University, Moderator

Logos: TAYLOR'S UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

QR Code: <https://lga.co.de/bbjs26>

Open to Academics and Students

Contact: pereira.j@taylor.edu.my

6. This is How Your Brain Processes Language

Invited speaker : Dr. Leela Koran

Organiser : BFM radio station

Date : 20 October 2020

Podcast is available at

<https://www.bfm.my/podcast/the-bigger-picture/healthandliving/brain-waves-39-this-is-how-your-brain-processes-language>

The screenshot shows the BFM website with a navigation bar at the top. The main content area features the podcast title 'BRAIN WAVES #39: THIS IS HOW YOUR BRAIN PROCESSES LANGUAGE' and a description by Dr. Leela Koran. A large image of a brain with speech bubbles is displayed. A 'Listen Live' button is in the top right corner. A list of 'Latest Podcasts' is on the right side. A podcast player is at the bottom.

BFM

Listen Live

Podcasts

Brain Waves #39: This is How Your Brain Processes Language

Dr. Leela Koran, Department of English Language, Faculty of Languages & Linguistics, University of Malaya

Latest Podcasts:

- Can Drones Be Made Of Plastic? Yes!
- Could Plant-Based Food Delivery Services Be The Next Big Thing?
- What Industry Needs To Be Digitised Next?
- MEP: How do I read? (Synthetic Sounds & Cultural Sweet Milk)
- Empowering Domestic Violence Survivors

Health & Living

Brain Waves #39: This is How Your Brain Processes Language

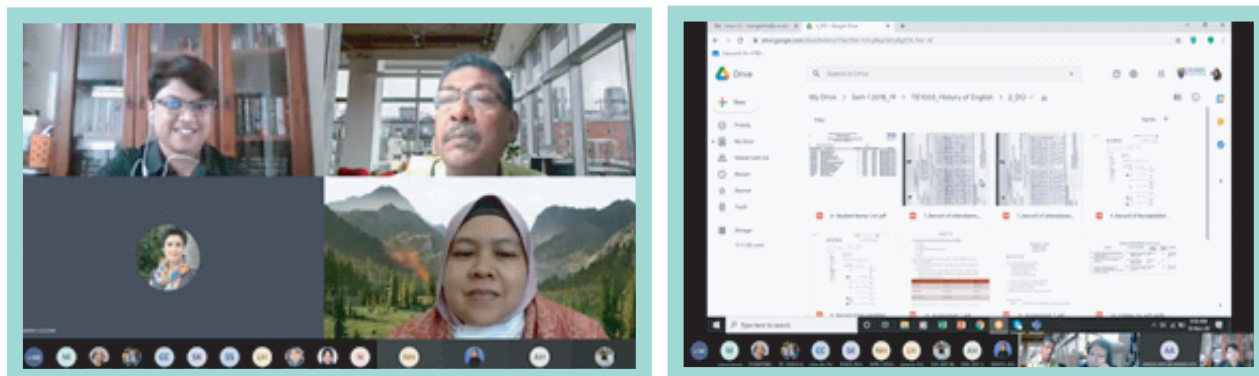
00:00 / 46:35

7. A Sharing Session on 'Positive e-Course File Practices'

Invited speaker : Dr. Shangeetha a/p Rajah Kumaran

Organiser : The Quality Management and Enhancement Centre (QMEC),
Universiti Malaya

Date : 10 November 2020



8. A Sharing Session on 'Making Research Count'

Guest speakers : Prof. Dr. Azirah Hashim, Dr. Leela Koran

Moderator : Prof. Dr. Stefanie Shamila Pillai

Organiser : Social Advancement & Happiness Research Cluster,
Universiti Malaya, supported by the Faculty of Languages &
Linguistics, Universiti Malaya

Date : 19 November 2020

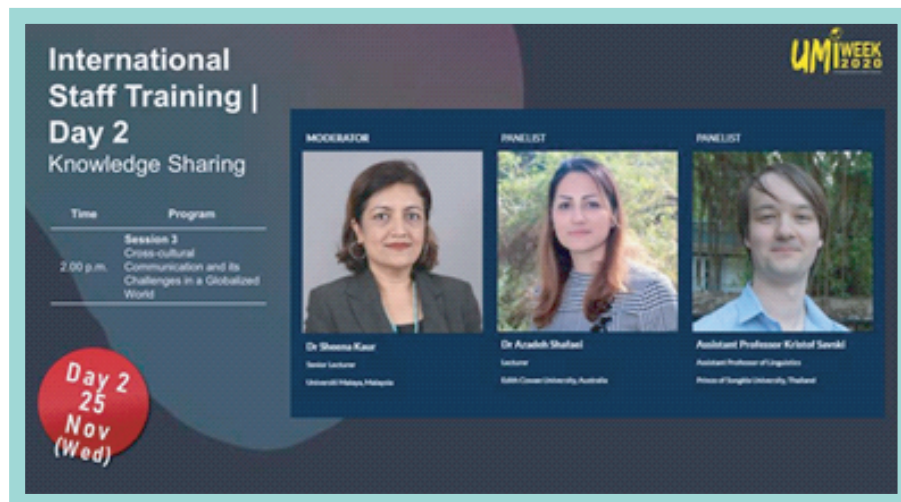


Screenshots of Prof. Dr. Azirah (left). Dr. Leela Koran (right) and Prof. Dr. Stefanie (bottom) during the online sharing session



9. Cross-cultural Communication and its Challenges in Globalized World

Moderator : Dr. Sheena Kaur
Organiser : Universiti Malaya
Date : 25 November 2020



A forum moderated by Dr. Sheena (left) in conjunction with international staff training during UMI week 2020

10. Revitalising Languages in a Multilingual Environment: The Case of Melaka Portugese

Guest lecturer : Prof. Dr. Stefanie Shamila Pillai
Organiser : Faculty of Humanities,
Universitas Indonesia
Date : 3 December 2020



11. What's the word of the Year?

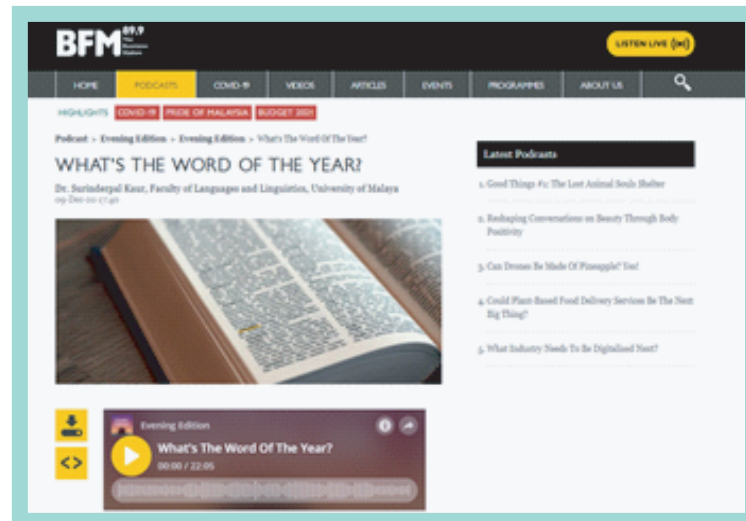
Invited speaker : A.P. Dr. Surinderpal Kaur

Organiser : BFM radio station

Date : 9 December 2020

Podcast is available at

<https://www.bfm.my/podcast/evening-edition/evening-edition/whats-the-word-of-the-year>



12. Malaysian Corpus Research Symposium (MCRS) 2020

Guest speaker : Dr. Chau Meng Huat

Organiser : Universiti Teknologi MARA

Date : 17 December 2020



Dr. Chew Shin Yi
Senior Lecturer, English Language Department

ELD SHARING / WORKSHOP / SEMINAR / TALK SERIES

Between July and December 2020, the English Language Department ran a series of sharing sessions on a wide range of topics not only to help academic staff chart their career pathways and to intensify/diversify their knowledge in other linguistics fields but also to share best practices in the teaching of linguistics online.

Prof Stefanie Pillai shared her ideas on how to plan one's academic journey. A little too late for me! Dr Leela Koran (language disorders) and Dr Sridevi Srinivass (syntax) spoke on transitioning to online teaching in their respective fields. Dr Chew Shin Yi (phonetics and phonology) showed how online teaching can be fun using Kahoot! It brought out the competitive streak in me, but alas, the session was too short. Dr Chau Meng Huat waxed lyrical on publishing with joy while Dr Cecilia Cheong brought us back down to earth with the do's and don'ts of preparing the MQF documents for course files – just the right person as a ProQAE to help us pin it down.

And before the end of the year, Dr Yeo Siang Lee teased us with the title of his talk, From 'the nudist colony' to 'what colour can apples be', a talk about interactional strategies employed by children with autism spectrum disorder. Nothing naughty at all.

Dr Ruth LT Ong
Senior Lecturer, English Language Department





The Higher Education English Language Carnival (ELCA) provides higher education students opportunities to use English outside the classroom. It was first held in UUM in 2017, then in UMT and UniSZA in 2019. In 2020, the host was UTM and for the first time, all events were held online. This year, students had the chance to experiment with various digital media.

Team UM emerged winners in the following categories:

1. SoundScape

Participants had to prepare a video of a popular song with lyrics changed to send a positive message.

Team UM won 1st place with their version of "Beauty and the Beat" by Justin Bieber.

You can check out their video at: https://youtu.be/q3GLwU-P_44

2. Connected Creativity

A group activity on an outline platform. Group 2, which included UM student Malavika Meganathan, were overall winners.

*Mdm. Rema Menon and Mr. Farril Daniel Zainal
Senior Language Teachers, Language Unit*



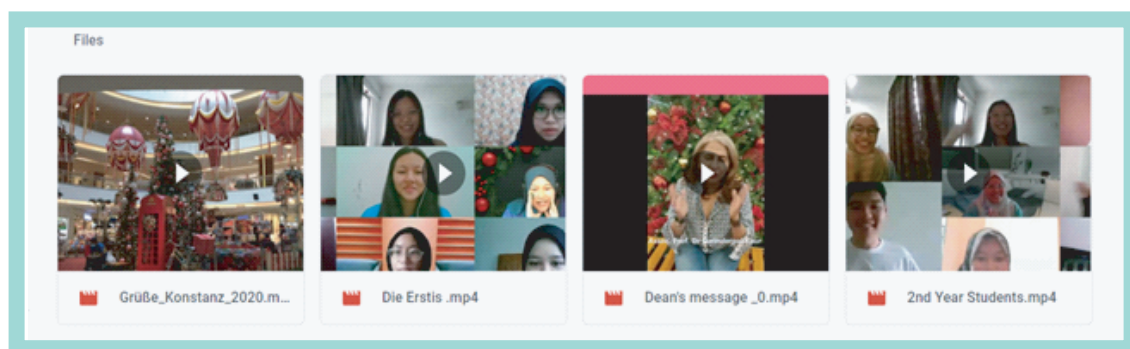
*The participants (clockwise from top left): Wan Emelyn Eisyah Binti Wan Amir Akram,
Sayed Munir Bin Sayed Sultan Ibrahim, Sayang Anis Syafiqah Binti Zaifol,
Nur Aisya Binti Munir @ Zakariah
Muhammad Zulqarnain Bin Hamdan Mustafain (middle)*

UM's Contribution to the Digital Christmas Calendar of Konstanz University of Applied Sciences, Germany

Konstanz University of Applied Sciences, Germany, which offers a double degree with UM, asked the German Language Programme to contribute either still pictures or short videos to their digital Christmas calendar. Ms Soong Pei Ru the Assistant Programme Coordinator, submitted 4 videos: one each from the 1st year students; the 2nd year students; Ms Koh Yi Chern, the Programme Coordinator; and the Dean, Assoc. Prof. Dr Surinderpal Kaur.

Ms. Koh Yi Chern

Language Teacher, Asian and European Languages Department

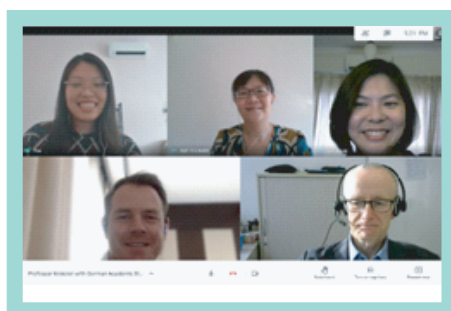


German Programme External Assessor's Online Meeting Sessions with Academic Staff, Alumni and Students

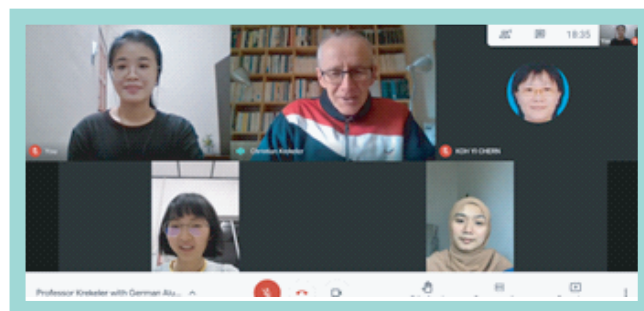
As part of the Curriculum Review requirements, the German Programme's External Assessor, Prof. Dr. Christian Krekeler (Konstanz University of Applied Sciences, Germany) had sessions with staff, alumni and students of the German Programme. Due to the COVID pandemic, all sessions were held online. Prof. Dr. Krekeler spoke to 11 current students, 3 each from Years 1, 2 and 3, and 2 from Year 4 as well as to three alumni, Asilah (Pall Corporation - Pall Malaysia Sdn. Bhd), Yoke May and You Juan (German Educare).

Ms. Koh Yi Chern

Language Teacher, Asian and European Languages Department



Meeting Session with Academic Staff



Meeting Session with Alumni

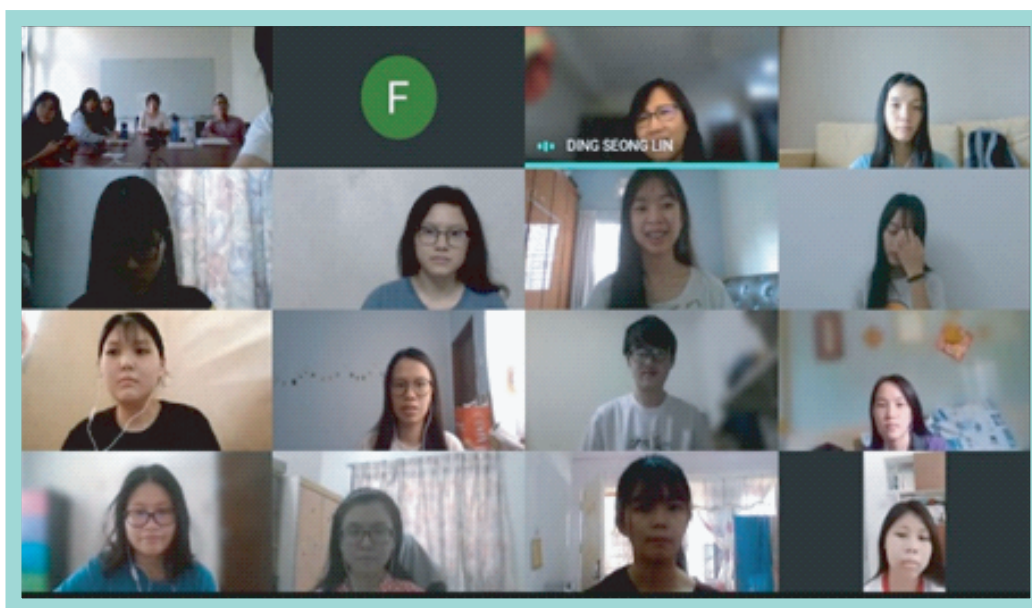
Chinese Language and Linguistics Programme Outbound Activity

As part of the outbound MOU activities between National Central University, Taiwan, and Universiti Malaya, 14 third-year students from the Chinese Language and Linguistics Programme attended 3 online guest lectures that were part of Dr. Fen-fang Tsai's course, Fieldwork in Southeast Asia: Methodology and Ethnographic Writing, at the National Central University's College of Hakka Studies.

The first guest lecture, "Research methodology in the contexts of Hakka communities in Malaysia", was given by Assoc Prof Dr. Ding Seong Lin; the second, "The Relationship of Political-Religion in Multi-Ethnic Societies: The Development of Malaysian Islamic Legal Institution", by Dr. Chin Chong Foh; and the last, "The Illegal Occupancy and Forced Migration –the Formation and Connotation of Chinese New Villages" by Dr. Ng Yuen Yi. Each lecture ended with an open Q and A session.

Tan Ying Yee

Chinese Language and Linguistics Programme Student



Group Photo taken on 12 November 2020

Editorial Team: Dr. Shangeetha Rajah Kumaran, Dr. Chew Shin Yi,
Dr. Veronica Lowe Siew Yoke & En. Ramlan Sulaiman

Advisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jariah Mohd Jan