The Halliday Centre for Intelligent Applications of Language Studies (HCLS)

Introduction

Officially launched in March 2006, The Halliday Centre for Intelligent Applications of Language Studies (HCLS) bears the name of the world-renowned linguist, Professor M.A.K. Halliday. The Halliday Centre, located at City University of Hong Kong (CityU), has the distinct honour of being named after this distinguished scholar, who for over half a century has been enriching the discipline of linguistics with his keen insight into this social semiotic phenomenon we call language. His scholarship has advanced our understanding of language as an activity which is rational and relational, systemic and semantic, dynamic and diverse. The Centre’s Director is Dr. Jonathan Webster, Department of Chinese, Translation and Linguistics (CTL).

The Centre’s strategy is defined by its focus on the theoretical and computational modeling of meaning, and its commitment to the application of this linguistic insight in such areas as education, computer science, and policy making. Meaning and its theoretical and computational modeling is crucial for developing intelligent applications of language studies, since without meaning there is no intelligence.

The Centre aims to expand opportunities for collaboration with global partners in China, Australia, Europe, Japan, and North America, concentrating on research related to corpus linguistics, computational linguistics, and comparative language studies. More information about the Centre’s work and research focus is available on the Centre’s official website at http://www.hallidaycentre.cityu.edu.hk.

To mark the official launch of The Halliday Centre, a Symposium on “Meaning in Context: Implementing Intelligent Applications of Language Studies” was held at the end of March 2006 at CityU. The Centre’s global partners discussed directions and strategies for research in the areas covered by the Centre, leading to an agenda for developing intelligent applications of language studies. Professor Halliday presented the opening address on the topic “Working with Meaning: Towards an Applicable Linguistics”.

Research Agenda

♦ Metalinguistic modeling – development of our metalinguistic resources for modeling language in context, with particular attention to the development of more explicit higher-level models that can support new computational implementations and new computational tools.

♦ Text- and register-based comparison of Chinese, English, Japanese and Korean (in a general typological frame), including both quantitative as well as qualitative comparison.

Global Partners

| The School of Foreign Languages, Zhongshan University (Sun Yat-sen University), China | Professor Wang Bin  
Dr. Chang Chenguang  
Professor Huaguan Guowen |
| Centre for Language in Social Life (CLSL), Centre for Translation and Interpreting Research (CTIR), Department of Linguistics, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia | Professor Christian Matthiessen  
Dr. David Butt  
Dr. Wu Canzhong |
| Department of Japanese and Korean Studies, University of New South Wales, Australia | Dr. Kazuhiro Teruya |
| Faculty of Information Science, Doshisha University, Japan | Professor Michio Sugeno |
| Department of English Linguistics and Translation Science, Saarland University, Germany | Professor Erich Steiner |
| Department of Applied English Linguistics, University of Bremen, Germany | Professor John Bateman |
| Department of Language and Literacy Education, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada | Professor Geoff Williams |

Management

Director: Dr. Jonathan Webster

Dr. Jonathan Webster received his PhD from the State University of New York at Buffalo in Linguistics. He is currently Head of Department of CTL, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, at CityU. Prior to coming to Hong Kong in 1987, he taught at the National University of Singapore in the Department of English Language and Literature. His research interests include text linguistics, computational lexicography, and example-based machine translation.

Advisor: Emeritus Professor M.A.K. Halliday

Professor M.A.K. Halliday is Emeritus Professor of Linguistics at the University of Sydney. As a significant contribution to language studies, Professor Halliday has developed a theoretical approach known as "systemic functional linguistics", incorporating a comprehensive model of grammar which has been applied to English and numerous other languages including Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese and Thai. His emphasis has always been on theory as a resource for solving problems (he calls it as "appliable" theory), so that his work has been of interest to a wide audience of those concerned with language, such as educators, computer scientists and practitioners in various professional fields.

Programme Director: Emeritus Professor Ruqaiya Hasan

Professor Ruqaiya Hasan is Emeritus Professor of Linguistics at Macquarie University, Australia. She has taught and held visiting positions at various universities in Europe and America. She has researched and published in the areas of stylistics, context and text, lexicogrammar and sociolinguistics. Her latest research in the area concerned semantic variation in naturally occurring mother-child dialogues, for the analysis of which she devised extensive semantic system networks.

Core Members: Dr. Alex Fang  
Dr. Matthias Gerner  
Mr. Matthew Leung  
Dr. Pan Haihua  
Dr. Sin King-kui  
Professor Eric Zee  
Dr. Zhu Chunshen

Executive Officer: Ms. Joey Wong

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For more updated information of the Centre, please visit our website: http://www.hallidaycentre.cityu.edu.hk

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