

2015 LTTC International Conference Panel Discussion Proposal

Topic: Reconstructing the Tower of Babel: New Paradigms of Second Foreign Language Teaching in Taiwan (重建巴別塔：臺灣第二外語教學的新模式)

Although English has long been taken as a *lingua franca* in global communication and as the most popular second or foreign language for non-Anglophone speakers, in the new millennium, socio-economic power shifts, facilitated by global education and regional integration across the globe, have produced new linguistic territories in such terms as “Francophone,” “Hispanophone,” and “Sinophone.” Not only do these terms designate certain cultural hegemonic realignments, but the socio-linguistic glocalizations also point to certain important avenues to economic, political, and educational developments. In Taiwan, acknowledging the importance of the second foreign language acquisition other than English, in 1999 the Ministry of Education officially started to launch the Five-Year Program to Promote the Teaching of a Second Foreign Language in selected senior high schools. The national educational policy, in turn, has also fostered the teaching of second foreign languages in Taiwan, thus providing more language and culture learning opportunities for university students.

In a world of “connecting cultures,” certainly language is the most direct bridge, and when national borders are dissolving, the (pre)dominant language in communication is either replaced by more alternative languages or code-switched with other intervening languages. After the biblical Tower of Babel, the Millennial Generation is living to learn to put the scattered ziggurats in place and to channel communication in multicultural, multilingual contexts. This session will invite speakers to address how second foreign language teaching in university has paved new pedagogical paths to initiate students to other cultural vistas and to acquaint them with emerging possibilities in global education and mobility. Other than English as a most visible piece from the collapsed Tower of Babel, the invited speakers will excavate other language pieces and seek the possibilities for more intercultural connections through second or third foreign language learning.

Organizer and Chair:

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Invited Panelists:

Prof. Sih-Yuan Peng (彭思遠教授)

Assistant Professor of Japanese Studies, Department of Japanese, Soochow University

Prof. Stephanie Shuling Tsai (蔡淑玲教授)

Professor of French Literature, Department of French, National Central University (中央大學法文系)

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