Session 2: Curriculum Design

Register identification and textbook compiling; with special reference to curriculum design

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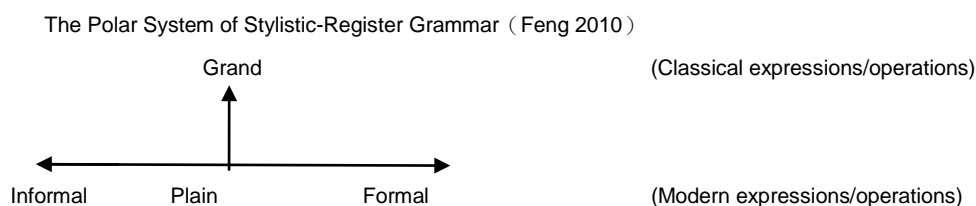第二部份：課程設置

語體鑒別、教材編寫與課程設置

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Professor Shengli Feng began his academic career as an undergraduate student in the History Department of Beijing Normal University 1977. He was accepted by the Graduate Programme in the Department of Language and Literature at the Beijing Normal University in 1979, majoring in Ancient Chinese Exegesis under the supervision of Professor Lu Zongda. After completing his MA degree, he taught Classical Chinese and Language and Literature in the Department of Language and Literature at Beijing Normal University. In 1986, he was accepted as a Ph.D. candidate by the Department of Linguistics at the University of Pennsylvania. He completed his Ph.D. degree in 1995. As Assistant Professor, he taught Chinese language, Chinese linguistics and Chinese culture in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Kansas since 1994 and in 1999 he was promoted to Associate Professor. He was appointed in 2003 as Professor of the Practice and Director of the Chinese Language Program at Harvard University. He joined the CUHK teaching team in 2011 and serves as the Vice Chairman (Curriculum and Administration) of Department of Chinese Language and Literature. His research interest includes Prosodic syntax, Chinese philology and Chinese teaching pedagogy.

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Abstract/Outline (摘要或大綱)

Based on recent development of Stylistic-Register Grammar, this paper discusses (1) register identification and (2) textbook compiling in teaching Chinese as second language.

It is shown first that the system of Stylistic-Register Grammar (SRG), as proposed in Feng 2010, can be structured essentially with two dimensional categories, each formed by two polar-elements, namely, formal vs. informal and grand vs. plain, within a relativized structure as follows:

The Polar System of Stylistic-Register Grammar（Feng 2010）

Grand　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　(Classical expressions/operations)

Informal　　Plain　　　　　Formal　　　　　　(Modern expressions/operations)

The polar elements of formal and informal are relatively easy to be defined, but that of grand and plain must refer to what is indicated in the diagram given above.

Based on the system illustrated here it is shown that factors such as 'when', 'who', 'what' and 'where' involved in face-to-face communications are essential for determining the types of stylistic-register grammar and the degree of formality in human languages. As a result, "when to say what to whom at where" will be analyzed as identification method for different grammars and expressions recognized not only for teaching (what type of register grammars should be taught at which level) but also for textbook compiling (text and exercises) and pedagogical considerations.