

Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies and Department of English Joint Seminar

Corpus Linguistics and Appraisal: exploring perspectives



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Date: 17 February 2017, Friday

Time: 3:30 – 4:30 pm

Venue: AG710, 7/F, Core A, PolyU campus

Abstract

This paper reviews Appraisal Theory in the context of a variety of approaches to evaluative language. It pays particular attention to the potential of Engagement and Affect to express evaluation of a target. The paper then reports on two projects that use Corpus Linguistics as a methodology. In one study, the question of a local grammar of Judgement is explored. In the other, principle component analysis is used as a data-driven approach to evaluative meaning in a corpus of comments about university professors. It concludes that this analysis largely supports sub-categories within Appraisal Theory, but also suggests that instantial categories may be appropriate.

About the speaker

Susan Hunston is Professor of English Language at the University of Birmingham, UK. She specialises in corpus linguistics and discourse analysis and teaches on courses in these subjects at undergraduate and postgraduate level. She is author most recently of *Corpus Approaches to Evaluation: Phraseology and evaluative language* (2011/Routledge) and previously of *Corpora in Applied Linguistics* (2002/CUP). She is co-author of *Pattern Grammar: a corpus-driven approach to the lexical grammar of English* (1999/Benjamins) and co-editor of *Evaluation in Text: authorial stance and the construction of discourse* (2000/OUP) and *System and Corpus: exploring the connections* (2005/Equinox). She has also published over 50 articles on the expression of stance or evaluation, especially in academic prose, on the use of corpora to describe the grammar and lexis of English, and on the interface between corpus and discourse studies.

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