



Upcoming Event:

Off Campus Student
Activity

Strength in Diversity On Sunday, February 26 the GSHS will organize the yearly off campus student activity to Samut Songkram to plant mangrove trees. As part of creating awareness for sustainability issues, students and faculty will have a chance to do their small part in conserving the earth's ecosystem. Mangrove forests help to protect the environment, protect some of nature's vulnerable species and remove carbon from the atmosphere. As a day trip, students will also visit nearby Amphawa floating market where they will be able to immerse themselves in Thai culture, see traditional Thai houses, and taste Thai food and desserts. Details about the trip can be obtained at the GSHS offices.



Image courtesy of Vietnam Insider

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Your Mind is Like a Parachute - Associate Professor Dr. Joseph Foley

"Your mind is like a parachute, it works best when it is open"

– Thomas Dewar

As students doing research, you might ask yourself **what** am I going to study, **how** am I going to do it? Obviously, these are points to consider in your 'Research Methodology' course and with your supervisor. However, students sometimes feel that the areas they are interested in have been done before. This is where we need to have an open mind and think 'outside the box'. I can only relate to areas in my own academic experience mainly in education, linguistics and philosophy.

'Reading' has to be the obvious starting point whether in print, digital format or videos, as potential sources of information. When I was a student, at university, it was normal to ask 'What are you Reading?', meaning the subject you were studying for your degree. The implication of this was that you would be expected to spend most of your time in the library and to discuss with others what you had been reading.

It is common for students to find it difficult 'to get started' mainly because of feeling of being overwhelmed by the amount of readings required or by the complex concepts and unfamiliar terms found. It is taken for granted that at graduate level, you will need to read widely. That means readings that cover overviews, current research (often in journals) or using computer based research. However, your reading has to be done with a critical mind, to identify the arguments made by the author, and ask questions while you read:

- When was the article written?
- Who wrote the article?
- How relevant is the reading for your research?
- Are the ideas still relevant?
- Is the work biased?
- How valid are the conclusions?

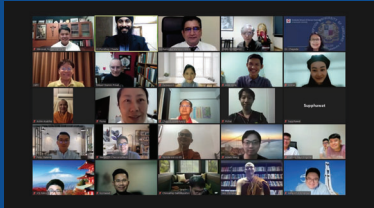
What to read?

This will depend on the area you are going to study but also finding something that will trigger interest. In my case, the recent 60th anniversary of the publication of 'A Clockwork Orange' evoked memories of my use of this novel in the classroom.

This is a famous novel, some would say infamous novel, by Anthony Burgess that spawned an underground lexicon into the teen age culture of a 'language' called 'Nadsat'. 'Natsat' derives from a Russian suffix meaning 'teen' and is a mixture of English and Russian words with Arabic and German incorporating older forms of English found in The Bible such as 'verily, 'thou, thee' and thine.'

I found considerable educational value in reading and trying to 'crack' Natsat: deciphering the words through using contextual background knowledge, hints given in the text and working with others (droogy). What Natsat involves is the use of the higher order reading skills, involving read between and beyond the lines. Goodman (1967) called this reading process "a psycholinguistic guessing- game". Nadsat can certainly create an atmosphere of 'britva' as it confounds and forces the reader to grapple with multiple meanings. Indeed, even to this day, Nadsat continues to fascinate and challenge readers and of course translators. "Ponying the Slovos" (understanding the words) has created a number of university projects.

Candids From Around Campus



Art Print "A Clockwork Orange" designed by Rafa Gomes

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The question is whether such a novel can be used in the EFL classroom? Clearly not all "The Clockwork Orange" will be suitable, but it can provide useful ideas for use in the classroom. What follows is an example of an extract that can be used to develop reading skills.

Classroom Activity

Briefly, the action takes place in a country where chaos seems to dominate all aspects of life. Even the language as used by the teenagers reflects their secret world to help them survive.. Natsat is slang and therefore ephemeral but somehow still feels attuned for today's digital world. The text has been slightly adapted, but for obvious reasons no background is given to the students.

The Samy Act

"Give these poor baboochkas over there a nourishing something, large scotchmen all around and something to take away". And I poured my pocket of deng all over the table, and the other three likewise, O my brothers, so double firegolds were brought in all around for the scared starry lighters, and they knew not what to do or say. One of them got out 'Thanks lads', but you could see that they thought there was something wrong like coming. Anyway, they were each given a bottle of Yank General, cognac that is, to take away, and I gave money for them to be delivered each a dozen of black and suds that following morning; they to leave their stinking old cheenas' addresses at the counter. Then with the cutter that was left over we did purchase, we brothers, all the meat pies, pretzels, cheese-snacks, crisp and chocbars in the metso, and these too were for the old sharps. Then we said, 'Back in a minoota', and the old girls were still saying: 'Thanks lads' and 'God bless you boys,' and we were going out without one cent of cutter in our carmens.

Questions to consider:

- What language is this?
- In what country does it happen?
- What are baboochkas?
- What are starry lighters?
- What are black and suds?

- What are cheenas?
- What is a metso?
- What are carmens?
- Why the repetition of 'O brothers'?
- What is the 'Samy act'?

[The questions gradually get harder and are expected to become a source of discussion among the participants.]

Other books by Burgess are also worth considering, in particular the 'Malayan Trilogy', three books he wrote while working as a government teacher in Malaya in the 50s.

What follows are some books that have been used by students as the subject of their theses; related to education, psychology, philosophy/ religion and ELT.

Fortress Besieged (English Title) written by Ch'ien Chung-shu is a novel that like any major work of literature operates on a whole series of levels. At one level it is autobiographical as the main character, Fang Hong-chien follows the trajectory of the author having studied literature and philosophy in Europe in the 1930s but buys himself a bogus degree and when all his money has run out and has to return to China. On another level it is historical as it takes place during the war with Japan with Feng and four companions travelled by bus, boat, on foot for several weeks to reach the university where they are to take up teaching posts. It is also about Chinese intellectuals and the effect of adapting Western history and different aesthetic theories. Finally, it is about the relationship between men and women, romance, and the disintegration of a marriage. This is all summed up in the proverb giving the title to the English translation of the book: *"Marriage is like a fortress besieged: those who are outside want to get in, and those who are inside want to get out"*. The satiric metaphorical use of language echoes the multi-layers of phenomena faced not only in a Chinese context but universal.

The Khun Chang Khun Phaen, a 'sepha' from the Ayuttaya period which refers to a genre of Thai style poetic storytelling. It is a love triangle set against a background of war with three main characters that live traditional Thai lives. The love triangle that develops involves one man who is ugly but rich, the other is handsome, but poor and were close friends when children. There is a third character a beautiful woman whose life is dictated by the wills and whims of society. This is a well known story based on oral tradition and touches on several aspects of society; historical and the linguistic using the metaphorical use of language in its poetic cultural setting. The story depicts how people lived their lives during the Ayutthaya period, describing their life-journey, in both love and war.

[continued on page 3]



[continued from page 2, "Parachute"]

Song of Everlasting Sorrow by Wang Anyi (English title) sees the novel as source that can be a mirror to reflect the image of people and things around them. Historically the novel takes place after World War II in Shanghai, already a prosperous city symbolizing the changing life in this instance the tale of a Shanghai woman, Wang Qiyao. The novel depicts the attitude towards gender differences between men and women during a period from 1940s to the 1980s. Men and women live in different groups and cultures, so they have a different status and views on life depending on their social roles, class and occupations. Analyzing the language used, in particular, to represent women is not only as a linguistic phenomena but also a conceptual and experiential process reflecting the way people think and their ways of perceiving the world.

I have a student who at present is investigating two novels. One book is directed towards adult readers, while the other to children. Although there are two different audiences reading the same subject, the effect of the metaphors to convey the trauma that people of all ages went through has proved to be a fascinating topic following Lakoff and Johnson [1980] 'Metaphors We Live By'.

The Tattooist of Auschwitz fits into the biographical genre of a Holocaust novel by Morris (2018). The book tells the story of how Slovakian Jew Lale Sokolov, who was imprisoned at Auschwitz in 1942, fell in love with a woman while tattooing a number on her arm in concentration camp. The story is based on the real lives of Sokolov and his wife, Gita Furman. Morris (the author) writes using simple, short sentences from a third-person point of view where Lale is the omniscient narrator and protagonist of the story.

According to reviewers, the author "welds the historical events – and real people – on to a fictional frame".

There has been mixed criticism towards the book, with some complimenting the novel's compelling story based on real-life events, while other point out the factual inaccuracies around the same historical events.

The Librarian of Auschwitz, from Spanish novelist Antonio Iturbe, is also based on a true story of a 14-year-old Auschwitz prisoner Dita Kraus. She risked her life to protect a small collection of books, hiding them in secret pockets in her dress, and circulating them to teachers giving forbidden lessons to the 500 children housed in the Block 31 "family camp" at Auschwitz in 1944. The "library" of eight books included a random selection of what was available in the camp : 'A Short History of the World' by H.G. Wells, a Russian grammar, a book on analytical geometry, 'The Count of Monte Cristo' in the original French. Iturbe uses the present tense to give his story a vivid immediacy that weaves through his narrative using flashbacks to flesh out portraits of central figures in the camp. In spite of the brutality of the environment, the 'library' of books keeps hope alive in this coming of age novel. Dita learns in spite of the horrors that surround her that the truly brave are the ones who know fear, but also know that hate cannot triumph.

One word of advice when doing your research:

'Think outside the box but make sure your parachute is open'.

Associate Professor Joseph Foley
Senior Lecturer, ELT
Graduate School of Human Sciences

St. De La Salle Award Winner!



Congratulations to Dr. Parvathy Varma, Program Director of the M.Sc. and Ph.D. Counseling Psychology programs, who will receive the St. De La Salle Award for Commendable Service. It is given by the university to faculty members who have served the university for 25 years with high standards and excellence in their profession.

Happy Holidays From
GSHS!



Our New GSHS
Working Space is
OPEN!





Monthly Student Seminars

Our GSHS students have a wealth of experience to share. To showcase some of their talents and expertise, the GSHS has planned a seminar series where graduate students from the various disciplines will give informative talks or hold workshops on various topics of interest. The monthly seminars are open to all students and alumni. The first of the series kicked off on December 15th with the topic of body appreciation and intuitive eating by Ms. Onraya Himakorn, currently a Ph.D. student in the Counseling Psychology Program. Ms. Himakorn is also a licensed therapist registered in Australia. It was well attended by students and faculty alike. The seminar was held in the GSHS Working Space. Keep posted to the GSHS website for updates on future topics and dates.

Award-Winning GSHS Alum!

Congratulations to former PhD student in the English Language Teaching program at Assumption University, Yumei “Maggie” Zhang who has been awarded The Best Doctoral Thesis by the Thai Association of Applied Linguistics (TAAL). Her dissertation titled A Nexus Analysis of Classroom Translanguaging at a Private University in China was supported by her adviser Andrew Jocuns (PhD Georgetown 2005).

Thai Association for Applied Linguistics
TAAL

TAAL Best Research Article and Thesis in Applied Linguistics Awards

2022



 TAAL is pleased to announce the TAAL best research article and thesis awards in 3 categories

TAAL Best Research Article Award
Fandom and identity construction: an analysis of Thai fans' engagement with Twitter
Pitchapa Smutradontri and Savitri Gadavanij

TAAL Best Master's Thesis Award
Role of linguistic landscape as a pedagogical tool for Bhutanese university learners of the English language
Jigme Wangdi

TAAL Best Doctoral Thesis Award
A nexus analysis of classroom translanguaging at a private university in China
Yumei Zhang

 Research articles and theses submitted for the award were judged on:

1. Research quality
2. Innovativeness
3. Impact on society

The award winners will give a presentation of their research at the TAAL Applied Linguistics Graduate Forum 2022 on November 5, 2022, and the award ceremony will be held on the TAAL Applied Linguistics Day 2022 on November 26, 2022

Yumei Zhang obtained her PhD in ELT at Graduate School of the Human Sciences, Assumption University in 2022. She has taught for thirteen years at Heilongjiang International University, Harbin, China, where she is now an associate professor in the English Department. Her research has focused upon nexus analysis, classroom discourse analysis, translanguaging and EFL teaching.

Congratulations, Yumei!



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