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Conference Proceedings

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The Verb Predicate and Its Role in Cohesive and Informative Structure of the Text

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The Abstract

The study of verbal signs is a cross-cultural phenomenon and is addressed from an inter-disciplinary line. It embraces several closely related compilations with the study of linguistics, psycholinguistics, socio-linguistics, cognitive linguistics, stylistic semantics, information theory, etc.

The verb is a basic unit being able to express the whole extra linguistic situation of the concept. Phycologists note that the motor part of human brain complies with process expressed by verbs, while sensor part of our brain complies with notions expressed by nouns.

Having employed modern linguistic conceptions, we scrutinize informative potential, and deep linguistic analyses and determine the role of verb predicate in cohesive and informative structure of the text. Collected data about verb-concepts may be of particular help for lexicographers and professional translators of English to standardize their work to that of the source authors, particularly, revealing relations among verb actants in the text.

Literature Review and Analysis

The study of verbal signs is a cross-cultural phenomenon and is addressed from an inter-disciplinary line. The problem itself is of broad appeal and it embraces several closely related compilations with the study of linguistics, psycholinguistics, socio-linguistics, cognitive linguistics, stylistic semantics, information theory, etc.

Consequently, the complex approach to verbal signs that is reflected in their multi-aspectual and multi-functional goals ascribes an additional degree of significance revealing deep informative potential of the verb-predicate that reflects the self-steering principle of text-building influence. The verb-predicate incorporates all the constituents of the text elements as a whole and becomes a condensed structural code, or cognitive word-concept of the text.

The verb is the basic unit being able to express its meaning as well as the whole extra linguistic situation of the concept. Information that is connected to the verb being not only visually represented but also transferred into higher abstract images linked to motor movement. Realization

of different meanings of the verb is closer to processed knowledge understanding rather than meanings of the notions that express declared knowledge. Phycologists note that the motor part of human brain complies with process expressed by verbs, while sensor part of our brain complies with notions expressed by nouns. From the point of view of the world perception and understanding, the verbs are more complicated phenomenon.

Thus, the language is considered as the best example of universal knowledge allocated into different structure of the mind with the concept as the basic unit of mental information. The concept – verb getting into the preamble, the opening sentence, the middle, or final position due to its informative potential still

leads every detail of the text to realise the stylistic concept. The term “concept” should be understood as an explanatory unit of mental-psycho resources of the notion of informative structure expressing human knowledge and experience. It is originated in the dynamic of the collecting information on the notion, and offers result data about real as well as imaginative world.

The verb lexemes indicate their correlation with their subject and object. Such correlations are expressed through minimal syntagmas of semantically correlated words specified by subject and object localization of the verb. According to the localization there are distinguished subjective and objective orientations of the verb lexeme, i.e. the category of semantic and syntactic orientation being formed at the level of expression.

This category singles out the true subject and the true object into each peculiar fragments of reality. Situation is divided into permanent and temporary. State is expressed by verb in the sentence and fixed via text into the language. Thus, the meaning of separate unit can be understood only through their participation during interpretation of the text.

Since a word is an integral part of a sentence, the sentence expressing a situation is an integral part of the text. The text is a unity of sentences. So, the verb is a word that takes the central part among parts of speech. Why does it take the central part? Considering its meaning and importance it could be said that every sentence is a widened verb, and every verb is a short sentence. Sure, the difference is relative, and there is functional and conceptual difference between a verb and a sentence. The verb is a semantic and structural centre of the sentence. The verb, as a word, is very close to the sentence though still cannot completely be equal to it. For example:

“Bill Bradley faded from the game”

Here the verb “*to fade*” is the centre of the sentence and through its subject and object orientation manages to combine “incompatible”.

The verb as a lexeme is a cultural and historic notion having paradigmatic as well as syntagmatic correlations. Synonymy is originated from paradigmatic correlations. While researching, it was revealed that verbs indicating movement are semantically compatible just like verbs of emotion and

perception. For instance, the lexical-semantic group of the verb “to move” includes verbs indicating movement and is divided into following rows:

- 1) go, run, come, walk;
- 2) promote, stroll, stride, step, pace, tramp, jog, tread, trot;
- 3) advance, stir, urge, spur, instigate, budge;
- 4) drift, shift, glide, travel, trip, prevail upon, bring round, stimulate, arouse, rouse, agitate, proceed, propose, etc.

There has also been determined that semantic and lexical compilation consists of hetero-seme, or arch-seme, differentiating semes, or hypo-semes, and potential seme, or associative semes. Due to this feature the verb makes it available to use lexical units in the text simultaneously, thus compiling incompatible syntax units revealing synonymous semes. Existing hierarchy between the words is determined through organized predication actant structures that prove universality of the language structure.

Semes appear through simultaneous usage of lexical units. Conducted research proves that it is the valency of verb-predicate that correlates with different units of the languages. Thus, the semantic and syntactic centre of the sentence is the verb-predicate.

Based on subject and object orientation of the verb it can be concluded that cognitive components indicating emotional or insanity state can be revealed in any situation through simultaneous usage of lexical units.

Thus, a sentence, which is considered complete in comparison to a word and incomplete towards a text, is a language sign denoting a situation.

Information is realised through “theme-reme” series and presumes information dynamics. It is considered that a word is one of the basic adequate concepts of the sentence in the discourse. Here adequate concept means usage of different informative meanings of a word.

Discussion of old and new information, also their division and relation is subject to semantics on the one hand, and pragmatics on the other hand. Neutral sentences are noted with rather interesting and unique pattern of expressing old and new information. If there is only one logic argument it keeps old information, while new information, i.e. reme, is expressed by the predicate. The predicate can be accompanied with several arguments of different semantic correlations – agent, patience, experiencer, etc. characterising with distinguishing theme-reme potential in the text.

Actualisation of certain denotative, connotative and contextual meanings while keeping others in the shade indicates their dynamic character. Though, intention is not revealed at once, it still plays significant role while evaluating informative capacity of the predicate in the sentence.

Usage of informative potential of the verb, i.e. interrelation and inter-correlation of meanings comes out of simple language units' relation. While speaking about management ability of the verb the prior attention is paid to constituent parts of the sentence and their organised coherence in the whole sentence. It is absolutely necessary for the readers to analyse, process and percept information kept by the word. Here it is meant the contextual polysemy of a word into the sentence.

Let's analyse the following extract:

“She felt that she was dozing off, and had just begun to dream that she was walking hand in hand with Dinah... when suddenly, thump! thump! down she came upon a heap of sticks and dry leaves, and the fall was over. Alice was not a bit hurt, and she jumped up on her feet in a moment: she looked up, but it was all dark overhead... There was not a moment to be lost: away went Alice like the wind.” (Carol, L. “Alice in the Wonderland”, 35)

Alice's rushing and unexpected falling down is clearly shown through inversions “down she came” and “away went Alice”. Here the reme, being a logic predicate, is placed at the beginning, thus strong stress makes the sentence more emphatic.

Description of syntax structure helps to its understanding. Syntax functions of the sentence constituents are determined by Noam Chomsky's theory in the following way: 1) information given through visual plan; and 2) competence, i.e. knowledge of vocabulary and syntax of the language that makes available to single out existing relations among the constituents (Chomsky, N. (1991) *Linguistics and Cognitive Sciences, The Chomskyan Turn*, Cambridge).

Based on the abovementioned, it can be concluded that interrelation of constituent parts of the sentence cannot be limited by such logic correlations as reason and result, condition and result, consequent and result, etc. Obviously, occurred unexpected correlations are to be defined through wider context. Here important role is played by two types of predicate – formal-structural and conceptual. Analysing the formal-structural message requires specification of elements keeping basic information. Conceptual idea is not limited only with reme, but covers the whole message, including given information. Thus, the theme is turned into the reme, i.e. given information acquires unknown or unnoticed features. This is especially seen in such bigger units as a complex syntax unit, a paragraph, or a text. Therefore, while analysing syntax unit informative feature it is necessary to analyse not only the sentence but the whole text as well. The text is language phenomenon making available to conduct sematic and stylistic analyses of the verb.

Secret seme revealed from deep analyse depends on the language code and unites subject and object coherent correlation. The text topic is developing and joining its separate parts logically and syntactically. Every such predicate turns into an integrated coherent unit.

Coherence is not static but a dynamic-temporal category. It is realised through permanent movement and time. It indicates that the text itself is origin of dynamic process in time. Text

generally, and category of coherence particularly, illustrate functional meaning of lexical and grammar complication. Lexical-grammar complication affords conjunction or cohesion of the text on the one hand, and cohesion could not exist without lexical-grammar complication, on the other hand. Functioning of the text in time, i.e. its linear character makes basis for realisation of cohesion from linear point of view. That means realising cohesion between previous and next components of the text. Such correlation is not one-way. It can be said that already realised sentence consists of parts supposing or indicating following sentence.

Logical-conceptual analyse based on predicative conception speech has revealed that the structure of the text can be represented through specific hierarchy of conceptual levels. Conceptual links are correlations indicating interrelation. The internal structure of the text distinguishes basic and optional conceptual links. Based on conducted analyses, it can be stated that the predicate correlation plays the role of conceptual links in the structure of stylistic frames of the subject-object orientation. Optional conceptual links serve to specify, vary and develop basic links.

The conceptual correlation at the sentence level is revealed through subject and predicate grouping that is conceptual axis collecting information into organised unity through logic development and ending. The hierarchy of the text conceptual structure is shown through “theme-reme”, logic and coherent connections of its conceptual abstracts. And, conceptual connection in its turn is shown through connections of its sentences.

Coherence, being the central category of the text means it is synthetic category including form and meaning as well as all other categories of the text. Any hierarchic level of the text illustrates logical succession of those sentences united upon common theme. The text is constructed through thematic unity. The main feature of the text is its internal unity, i.e. the internal logical and semantic unity among the sentences. Thus, coherence is the central category illustrating the basic constructing signs of the text. Hierarchic structure of the text is indicated by revealing its main concept through logical and coherent correlation of its abstracts, e.g.:

“You look up the highway and it is straight for miles, coming at you, with the black line down the centre coming at and at you, black and slick and tarry-shining against the white of the slab, coming at you with the whine of the tires, and if you don’t take a few deep breath you’ll come to just at the moment when the right front will hook over into the black dirt shoulder of the slab.” (Warren, R.P. “All the King’s Men”, 1)

R. Warren uses repetition in order to add expressiveness not only to the given sentence but the whole text generally. The used standard deviation underlines the author’s being under strong emotional pressure. Using the verb “to come” in its different forms with its logical empathic expressiveness stick the reader’s attention to the main word-concept of the text. Given circumstances create a unified stylistic frame. Every single part of the frame is logically connected to its next part that finally leads us to a unified text.

Charismatic expression "...the highway... coming at you... you'll come to just at the moment..." by R. Warren indicates the situation around the main character. This standard deviation shows not only consequent connection and existence of rhyme but adds emotional colouring to the whole text. Thus, the verb "to come" is the basic unit for creation of conceptual system of the text. So, it can be concluded that the verb-predicate with its stylistic frame of subjective and objective actants manages conceptual connection not only at the sentence level but at the text level as well.

Based on the abovementioned, it can be stated that the message secret senses revealed through deep analysis and being depended on subject/object coherent correlations of the language code are semantically conceptual. The theme is developed, widened and logically and syntactically connects separate parts of the text. Every such verb turns into an integrated, or coherent, entity.

Thus, semantic-syntactic orientation of the verb and analysing its role in the structure of the text makes it possible to obtain information about potential abilities and quality of its components that finally leads to generalisation of new pragmatic characteristic of the given language unit.

The subject and object orientation of the verb can be widely used while studying semantics when the meaning of the expression equals to the conceptual structure of its components that in its turn, provides creation and transformation of mental concept. To identify the informative potential of the verb is to reveal the manifold relationships within the simultaneously realised denotative, connotative and contextual meanings of the polysemic word. Due to the stylistic device of international ambiguity the whole sentence, stanza and even the whole text becomes multifarious and infinite.

Having employed modern linguistic conceptions, we scrutinize informative potential, i.e. mechanism of simultaneous creation of multi-meaning, and deep linguistic analyses and determine the role of verb predicate in cohesive and informative structure of the text. Collected data about verb-concepts may be of particular help for lexicographers and professional translators of English to standardize their work to that of the source authors, particularly, revealing relations among verb actants in the text. Analysis of semantic compilation of verbs is rather valuable material while studying synonyms, antonyms, and semantic features of the language generally. It can also be useful while teaching stylistics.

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Learning from feedback: Evaluating the effectiveness of a snakes and ladders game for landslide education

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Abstract

Landslide disasters cause massive damages in hilly areas around the world. Thus, improving understanding of landslides among people is critical. Prior research has investigated the effectiveness of computer games in causing learning from feedback. However, an evaluation of the effectiveness of computer games for landslide education has been less explored. The primary objective of this research was to examine the efficacy of a landslide snakes-and-ladders (LSL) game for landslide education. In a field experiment in Mandi, India (a Himalayan town), participants were randomly divided into two between-subject conditions: control (N = 13) and intervention (N = 21). In the control condition, participants were given a set of 15-questions concerning causes-and-effects of landslides. In the intervention condition, participants played two rounds of an LSL game in quick succession. In each game round in LSL, at the encounter of a snake or a ladder, a randomized question from the set of 15-questions would appear. If the question was answered correctly, then participants climbed the ladder or were not affected by the snake bite. If participants responded to the question wrong, then they were told that their answer was “wrong” and they could not climb the ladder, or the snake bit them. Results revealed that performance was significantly better in the intervention condition compared to the control condition and performance improved across the two rounds of LSL in the intervention condition. We highlight the potential of using games like the LSL as pedagogical tools that help enhance understanding about landslides among ordinary people.

Keywords - Landslide disasters, Computer simulation tools, Snakes-and-ladders game, Learning, Understanding, Pedagogical tools.

A Novel Approach to Explain the Heterogeneity of Entrepreneurial Activities

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Abstract

This paper aims to contribute to the understanding of what explains the heterogeneity of entrepreneurial activities across countries. A novel feature of the models is the link of the extant macro theories (i.e. external environment) and micro-level antecedents, which is in congruent with the broader micro-foundation movement in entrepreneurship literature. The results contribute to the development of theoretical and knowledge bases by offering a new perspective on how entrepreneurial factors and their external environment operate as interacting

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determinants that influence entrepreneurship. Also, the paper could be useful for designing policies to foster entrepreneurship in different environments.

Key words: *Micro-level antecedents; External environment; Entrepreneurial activities*

Nation Building without National Interest: An Outlook of Adivasi Movement under Narmada

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Abstract

Any modern nation claims and equates its development with economic growth and surplus national resources it attains over a period of time. Large, centralized industries and irrigation projects have been the symbols of such development in industrialized and developed countries. Accordingly, after independence, the Nehruvian paradigm of ‘dam as temple of modern India’ dominated the nation-building paradigm. The government of India under this paradigm took on plan for nation building and subsequent strengthening of agriculture on which more than 80 percent of the people depend, took up various measures to boost its economy. As part of the process, frequently some of the large dams were planned and built on various rivers in India to solve the problem such as hunger and starvation by providing more facilities for irrigation that boosts food production, controlling floods and providing much-needed electricity for industrial development. This is required to transit towards an industrial economy. However, one of the inevitable outcomes of this development model has been massive environmental degradation and displacement of marginalized communities, who are then neglected by the developmental discourse in the name of nation-building. The several movements taken up by the exploited have been often ruled out by the State by arguing for the subsumption of minority interest under the concept of majoritarian interest or greater good. With this background, this paper deliberates on one of the most discussed developmental projects in India known as Sardar Sarovar Project on Narmada river and subsequent Adivasi assertion with a critical outlook on the concept of nation and nation building. The controversy over Narmada Dam project symbolizes the historic struggle for bringing out a just and equitable society. The long and very complicated story behind this uncut tale is based especially on the so-called development of the adivasis and for the same government had

planned to build 30 large, 135 medium and 3000 small dams to harness the water of Narmada and its tributaries. The people who were in support of this plan had a belief that the project would turn out to be a sustainable strategy for providing large amounts of water and electricity which are desperately needed for the purposes of development. On the other hand, the planning had paved the way for unjust and iniquitous situations, causing a large scale abuse of human rights and displacement of many poor and underprivileged communities in the peripheries. When, one cuts through all the rhetoric, lies and subterfuge of the vested interests, the gross inequalities are very much revealing and appealing. Mostly, the large numbers of dalits and underprivileged communities are being disposed of their livelihood and even their ways for dams being built on the basis of incredibly dubious claims of common benefit and “national interest”. It’s quite amazing that in the name of development and nation building how state is not allowing the common man to enjoy their basic civic and fundamental rights. This paper would make an attempt for a systematic and discursive analysis on the Narmada Bachao Andholan (movement) and the state interventions and the nature and types of atrocities inflicted against adivasis. Though building of multipurpose dams are indispensable for meeting nation’s mammoth development but it can never be materialized at the cost of innocent adivasis’s lives and their livelihood.

Confidence in the Judicial and State System as the Main Characteristics of Social and Civil Liberties in the Modern World

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Abstract

The modern world is pluralistic in terms of the content of social and civil liberties, which often gives rise to various precedents in the global political discourse. The way individual elements of these liberties are perceived by citizens of different countries is a topical issue, information on which can help outline the main issues that should be emphasized in intercultural communication, especially when it comes to the most reactive part of the society – the youth. According to recent studies, trust in the government is not directly dependent on the political structure of the country, since this indicator in some European countries is significantly lower than in the Middle East and Asia, therefore the liberal or conservative content of social and civil liberties is not quite obviously connected with democracy. The study, the results of which are

presented in the article, sheds light on the assessments of these liberties by young citizens of different countries. The Peoples' Friendship University of Russia is the most multinational university in Russia attended by the students from more than 150 countries of the world. The article describes the results of a university-wide survey among foreign students coming from Latin America, Africa, South-East Asia, the Middle East, Europe and the CIS countries, who expressed their opinion on the key aspects of social and civil liberties. The study was implemented using the method of a questionnaire survey; the results are of interest to scientists and practitioners working in the field of socio-political comparative studies.

Keywords: Confidence, Judicial, Modern World

Death Penalty and Euthanasia in the Context of Tradition and Liberalism

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Abstract

Personal freedom, its legal framework and public perception of the meaning/understanding of this freedom is the reason for the clash between liberal apologists and conservative actors (whether it be a politician, an ordinary citizen or a whole state). Within this article, two empirical indicators of personal freedom, which are very controversial in the modern world discourse, have been selected. This is the death penalty, which is considered as a violation of the right to life in terms of liberalism, and as a fair punishment for taking another person's life in terms of conservatism. And euthanasia, which, on the one hand, is seen as a violation of the right to life and, on the other hand, as free will to manage one's life. The article presents the data of opinion polls of Russian and international students (representatives of all regions of the world). The method of questionnaire was used, including projective questions. The goal of the article is to describe the views of world students on the same phenomena. As a result, liberal and conservative regions were identified in the context of this topic. The results may be useful to sociologists, lawyers and political scientists, they can be discussed at international youth policy conferences.

Keywords: Death penalty, Tradition, Liberalism

Political Participation of Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka, India- A Case Study

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Abstract

In Indian politics the role of caste predominates in each and every aspect of political activities. As caste has its impact on ownership of natural resources, occupation economy and social status naturally the politics of the state through political participation is highly related to caste. After Indian independence, the provisions of constitution facilitated the downtrodden people to share their legitimate political rights. As a result, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people were given political reservations. The welfare programmes were launched and implemented for the welfare of these Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people in India. In the process of development, Political participation is a major path to tribal people for their empowerment and in decision-making process. The representation of Tribal people is very meager not only in Parliament but also in state assemblies, urban & rural local bodies. Therefore, it is argued that due to non-political participation of Tribal people is a major lacuna in the implementation of process of welfare programmes intended for tribal development. The term Scheduled Tribe "ST" describes an administrative and legal category. The politico-administrative category of ST includes relatively isolated and backward people. This term is of recent origin, coming into being with the birth of the republican constitution of India on January 26, 1950. Prior to that, the colonial administration identified tribal people with a variety of different names, such as "Animist" (Census Report of 1901), "Tribal Animists" or "people following tribal religion" (Census Report of 1911), "Hill and Forest Tribes" (Census Report of 1921), "Primitive Tribes" (Census Report of 1931), "Backward Tribes" (Government of India Act, 1935). Thus, the present paper is going to analyses the need and importance of Tribal people's Political participation and its impact on the welfare of Tribal people.

Keywords: Political, tribes, India

Improving University Students' Mastery of Coherence and Cohesion In English

Anna Wing-bo Tso

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Abstract

This paper aims to highlight the common cohesion and coherence mistakes made in Hong Kong students' English academic writing. According to research, one of the biggest challenges that most Chinese university students face is the difficulty in mastering coherence and cohesion in English written texts. Constructing fluent, effective and meaningful English written texts that hang together appropriately is a hard task for them. The main reason of the difficulty, as Ren (2013) suggests, is due to the widely varied thought patterns in English and Chinese, which are "rooted in different culture, or different philosophy, word system, and history in specific" (523). Influenced by the Chinese norm of social interaction, Chinese students learning English as a second or foreign language (ESL/EFL) tend to convey their arguments in an indirect and circular pattern. Out of courtesy, the real intention of writing is often held back, and the thesis statement is inferred implicitly towards the end of the essay, rather than stated straightforwardly right at the beginning in the introduction. To improve Chinese students' English academic writing ability, it is imperative that ESL/EFL teachers raise their students' awareness towards the different understanding of coherence and cohesion in Chinese and English rhetorical patterns respectively.

Keywords: Coherence, Cohesion, English

The Effectiveness of the 'DECISION' -A Comprehensive Therapy Intervention Model-in Developing Self- Mastery in College Students

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Abstract

Based on the latest research, recent literature and treatments approaches addressing Learning Differences/ ADHD, Dr. Huda Shaaban established in 2015 a therapy intervention model for individuals with LD/ ADHD; called it "DECISION".

It is a strength-based therapeutic model that helps individuals with ADHD, learning difficulties, anxiety and depression gain control on their emotional, social and academic life through the use of different coaching techniques, Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT), and other treatment approaches, which will help them self-regulate, improve their executive function skills and consequently attain self-mastery and improve their academic outcomes.

A study in progress has started two years ago in the American University of Kuwait to investigate the effectiveness of the “DECISION” therapy intervention model for college students with ADHD through tracking the progress of ten students with ADHD using instrumental collective case studies methodology.

Keywords: ADHD, DBT, CBT.

On Developing Assessing Methods Aligned with Teaching-learning Activities for Improving English Language Learners’ Digital Literacy

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to suggest the methods of developing assessing methods aligned with teaching-learning activities for improving English language learners’ digital literacy. To achieve the purpose, the framework of the English curriculum and classroom textbooks are analysed in terms of the digital literacy composed of attitude (curiosity, access, respect, and empathy), knowledge (searching, understanding, analysing, evaluating), skills (communication, critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration), and outcomes. The results of analysing the curriculum are as follows: (1) In the characters, information processing competence is closely connected to the digital literacy. (2) It is established that learners should improve the ability to become aware of information ethics and justify the value of information as well as a basic literacy of reading and writing information presented in English. (3) It is presented that various multimedia materials and ICTs should be harnessed to motivate students to get involved in learning activities with a great sense of accomplishment. (4) There are not any accomplishment standards and assessment methods related to digital literacy stated directly or indirectly. Also, the results of analysing the textbooks are as follows: (1) Various multimedia materials and ICTs are used to motivate students in classroom activities for achieving accomplishment standards. (2)

Assessment methods related to the digital literacy are presented directly or indirectly. (3) There are not any assessing methods aligned with teaching methods during doing classroom activities. From the findings, assessing methods are suggested as follows: (1) Learners' achievement in alignment with classroom activities needs to be assessed based on big ideas referring to the core concepts, principles, theories, and processes. (2) Assessment tools of the digital literacy need to be carried out in connection with Kim (2013)'s MAP(Motivation-Activation-Personalization) model based on Kim (2017)'s flipped learning model. (3) A variety of rubric for assessing creativity and critical thinking need to be developed in terms of the digital literacy. (4) The step-by-step assessment tools such as questionnaire, T/F, multiple choice, and performance assessment need to be developed based on English language learners' stages. (5) It is necessary that a teacher should plan and implement a project and portfolio assessment based on the digital literacy.

Keywords: Assessing Methods, English Language, Digital Learning

Challenges to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC): Analyzing the U.S. and Indian Factors

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One Belt One Road (OBOR) which is also called as Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a project which was initiated in 2013 by the Chinese President Xi Jinping. The main aim and objective of this project is to build trade routes between China and the countries of Central Asia, Europe and Indo-Pacific littoral states. The 'belt' refers to land based "Silk Road Economic Belt" connecting China with Central Asia, Eastern and Western Europe while the 'road' refers to a sea-based "21st Century Maritime Silk Road" which will connect China with South-East Asia, Africa and Central Asia. On the other hand, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will connect Gwadar with the Chinese city of Kashgar which is situated in the autonomous province, Xinjiang. The Gwadar port has a strategic importance for both China and Pakistan which will fulfill their longer term interests. India, on the regional as well as on the global context, has voiced concerns over Chinese ambitions and is of the view that through this project, China will increase its influence both on the sea and land. Thus, India viewed CPEC from the prism of its security concern in the light of its rivalry with China and Pakistan. The US, on the other hand, wants to contain China's rise and also to reinforce its position in the region of Asia Pacific. Besides, the US also supports India's reservations over CPEC. This paper is an attempt to enlighten the prospect of CPEC and the serious challenges to this mega project particularly the

US and India's response over the strategic partnership of Pakistan and China. Thus, this paper will focus on two major challenges to CPEC i.e. US-China rivalry and the India's opposition to this project.

Key words: Pakistan-China, OBOR, CPEC, Gwadar Port, India, U.S.

How Do Boards Affect Cost of Equity Capital? The Unique Case of South Korea

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Abstract

Agency risk and information asymmetry create moral hazard and adverse selection in financial management. Since the board of directors can mitigate agency risk and information asymmetry, their roles are very important to shareholder protection. There is a growing literature on the relation between corporate governance and firm value. Governance has been shown to affect value via its key determinants i.e. future expected cash flows, and cost of equity (Ahn et al., 2008). Of these relations, effect of board characteristics on cost of equity capital remains relatively under explored.

This paper investigates the relationship between corporate governance and cost of equity capital for a set of South Korean firms between 2008 and 2018. There is a larger variation in board characteristics in Korea compared with Western countries. Can corporate governance mechanisms commonly used in Western countries be applied to South Korea, characterised by 'chaebol' conglomerates: family owned, debt-dependent, and widely-diversified business groups? Our sample period covers both financial crisis and recovery and the adoption of corporate governance culture in South Korea, after the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

The paper focuses on five board characteristics: size, independence, CEO duality, existence of both audit and nomination/remuneration committees, and independence of board committees, in order to construct a summary corporate governance measure for each firm. We examine whether higher governance quality is associated with a lower cost of equity capital. We predict that firms with stronger corporate governance have a lower cost of equity capital, that is, lower risk, compared to firms with weaker governance, after controlling for differences in Fama and French's risk proxies such as beta, market value of equity and market-to-book ratio (1993). Then we go on to interpret our results and make further recommendations.

Keyword: Cost of Equity, Capital, South Korea

Second Language Acquisition by Experiential Learning

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Abstract

This paper is going to explore a survey's feedback on experiential learning in the second language acquisition. There are so many methods of second language acquisition. But experiential learning includes almost all the four skills which helps a learner not only to learn but also to lock it in his/her mind because it is the most natural way of adopting new knowledge and it suits human behavior. In executing experiential methods, an instructor has to control the entire learning wheel very carefully. Here, in the survey, fifty students of Speech Communication course were assigned to write a report on "Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh" as a field work. They were instructed to interview foreigners (English speakers) who came to visit Rohingya people in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. They got a set of questions to ask foreigner's opinion regarding Rohingya crisis and they had to submit the video of the interview also with the permission of the interviewees. Here, all the four skills were covered by this and surprisingly, the students who were used to be very nervous even to interact in class, they became much confident in English communication. They enjoyed it much since they usually don't get opportunity to communicate with foreigners so gracefully with a professional approach. All the students wanted to have such interactive sessions frequently. Watching the videos, the instructor can give feedback to the students on what they should and should not do in that situation. The written report will show their writing capability and they are supposed to form all the information of the interview properly which demands good research skills. Best three interviewers are announced and best five are shown in class projector. These sorts of methods can be highly effective since it engages the learners and makes the study learner-centered, not teachers' centered which the students often find monotonous.

Keywords: communicative skills; four skills; natural approach; self- evaluation; survey

Manifestations of Workplace Bullying: In the context of Private sector employees in Sri Lanka

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Abstract

This study explores the prevalence of workplace bullying in private sector organizations in Sri Lanka. Workplace bullying has captured a great deal of research interest among scholars around the world. Workplace bullying refers to “situations where a person repeatedly and over a period of time is exposed to negative acts (i.e. constant abuse, offensive remarks or teasing, ridicule or social exclusion) on the part of co-workers, supervisors, or subordinates. Workplace bullying, has been investigated in many dimensions, including areas of its nature and measurement, antecedents, and consequences for employees and organizations. However, manifestations of bullying in terms of person-related and work-related have not been studied extensively. Therefore, this study focused on addressing this lacuna in the literature. Private sector is highly susceptible to workplace bullying due to its nature of competition. Increased competition among private sector organizations has increased the greater emphasis on employee performance. Organizations use variety of techniques to achieve the optimum level of human resources deployment. Organisations appear to have developed a culture whereby the achievement of organisational goals justifies the reasons of using such bullying mechanisms. Therefore, level of prevalence of workplace bullying in private sector may be higher compared to public sector in Sri Lanka.

Two hundred and thirty managerial level employees in the fast-moving consumer goods industry were selected for the study. Self-administered questionnaires were used to collect data and Analysis of the Moment Structure (AMOS) was used to analyse data. Empirical data supported that person-related bullying behaviours such as ignoring, insulting, spreading rumours, yelling, public humiliation are higher than work-related bullying behaviours such as impossible deadlines, unmanageable workloads, meaningless tasks. However, some behaviours identified as bullying behaviours in western context were considered normal occurrences by the participants of this study. This may be to the cultural sensitivity. Therefore, this study adds a cultural dimension to existing literature by conducting the study in Asian context. This study also contributes to the workplace bullying and job stress literature as workplace bullying identified as a work stressor. Findings of this research will be of vital importance to officers and policy developers especially those belonging to the private sector organizations to improve and creating a healthier working environment. Findings may also have the potential for being transferred to other developing countries with similar characteristics to Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Workplace, bullying, behaviors

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