

CLTAC
Fall 2005

加州
中文
教師
協會
通訊

**Chinese Language
Teachers Association**
**加州中文
教師協會**
of California

newsletter **通訊**

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FLANC FALL 2005 CONVENES AT SFSU

CLTAC members present papers on Chinese language teaching

The Fall 2005 Workshop of the Chinese Language Teachers Association of Northern California (CLTAC) was held at campus of San Francisco State University on Saturday November 12, as part of the Foreign Languages Association of Northern California's (FLANC) Fall 2005 Conference. Six papers were scheduled to be delivered by members of the CLTAC in addition to papers by non-CLTAC members related to teaching of Chinese language, literature and culture. However, delays in transport resulted in cancellation of one of the six papers.

In the morning session, Leo Lee (Defense Language Institute) spoke on "How to Teach Vocabulary", noting that a sure way for learners of the Chinese language to improve their comprehension is to enlarge their Chinese vocabulary by a significant amount. He discussed methods for acquiring vocabulary that are conceptually as well as perceptually novel to learners, and demonstrated methods for teaching these vocabulary items.

In the same session, Yan Wang (Defense Language Institute) talked about "Learning vs Acquisition: Analysis of the Chinese BA Construction". She used a grammaticality judgment task to test learners' conscious knowledge of the BA construction, and then used a video clip to test its acquisition. Then, an analysis was performed on discrepancies between the two processes, and implications were drawn. Meanwhile, Rong Yuan (Defense Language Institute) spoke on "Learning Approaches and Learners' Attitudes Towards Computer Assisted Language Learning". He performed a quantitative study involving over a hundred Chinese language learners to assess the relationship between learning approaches and attitudes towards computer assisted language learning, which has important implications for classroom pedagogy.

In the afternoon session, Jiaying Howard (Monterey Institute of International Studies) spoke on "Maximizing Target Language Use Beyond the Classroom", which studies overseas language learning centers, and how language and cultural learning activities added to the regular curriculum at these study centers can serve to help students contextualize their learning and maximize learning opportunities. In the same afternoon session, Heping Xu (Defense Language Institute) spoke on the topic "Futurity and Its Forms in Mandarin Chinese", which explored the issue of futurity markers in Mandarin from semantic and syntactic angles, taking into account also functional considerations.

Finally, CLTA President Chaofen Sun (Stanford University) spoke on "Retrospect and Prospect of CLTA's Work in 2005 and 2006" in the final session, and chaired the Fall 2005 CLTAC committee meeting.

By Chris Wen-Chao Li

2006 MANDARIN SPEECH CONTEST DATE: 4/29; VENUE: Lowell High

It was decided at the CLTAC Fall 2005 Committee Meeting that the 2006 Mandarin Speech Contest of Northern California will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2006 at Lowell High School in San Francisco.

CLTAC's annual Mandarin Speech Contest is the largest event of its kind in Northern California, and possibly nationwide. Last year, over six hundred participants came from all over the region to participate in the annual event. The contest includes categories ranging from elementary school to college/university, and features artistic and cultural performances from schools all over the Bay Area.

Says CLTAC Treasure Clare Cheng, the 2006 contest is expected to draw yet another record crowd, and should be the highlight of the Spring 2006 Semester.

By Chris Wen-Chao Li

CLTAC SPRING 2006 WORKSHOP TO BE HELD AT STANFORD ON 3/18

It was decided at the CLTAC Fall 2005 Committee Meeting that the 2006 Spring Workshop of the Chinese Language Teachers Association of Northern California will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2006 on the campus of Stanford University.

Stanford University has hosted many previous successful CLTAC workshops, and is seen by many members as an ideal venue for the event. It is also the home campus of CLTAC President Chaofen Sun.

CLTAC members are encouraged to submit papers in the areas of Chinese instructional materials (such as text selection, exercise types, integration of four skills) and related research fields such as pedagogical grammar, cultural issues, lexical explanations.

Entries (including a short abstract) should be sent electronically to Dr. Heping Xu at the Defense Language Institute.

(Email: Heping.Xu@monterey.army.mil)

By Chris Wen-Chao Li

