

LIVING LANGUAGE

ICIC Tri-annual Newsletter

Issue 11

Fall 2005

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Intercultural Rhetoric & Written Discourse Analysis Conference



Dean of the Faculties and Executive Vice Chancellor of IUPUI William Plater

On July 22-23, 2005 ICIC hosted the Second Annual Intercultural and Written Discourse Analysis Conference at the IUPUI University Library and welcomed close to 60 participants from across the globe. Over 40 papers and posters explored how people speaking different languages and coming from different cultures get together and communicate in English; they also explored some of the differences between the English language and the American culture and other languages and cultures, especially in communication differences in writing; on the basis of those differences and findings, new and diverse ways of teaching English as a second language were proposed and discussed.

We had the opportunity to listen to world renowned key speakers discussing most relevant issues in the field and inspiring new research:

- Dr. Ulla Connor (IUPUI), "Intercultural Rhetoric-Further Redefined"

- Dr. XiaoMing Li (Long Island University), "It's all about culture, all right, but where is the rhetoric?"
- Dr. Ana Moreno (Universidad de León, Spain), "The importance of comparable data in cross-cultural studies."
- Dr. Srikant Sarangi (Cardiff University, UK) "Intercultural research paradigms: A reassessment of their applicability to professional discourse studies."

We were pleased to have organized such an internationally diverse conference with participants from over a dozen countries on 5 continents. We hope future conferences are as successful as the one held this year!



"Thank you so much for this opportunity-I feel so grateful and really learned so much!" commented one participant.

ICIC Think Tank on Health Discourse

In conjunction with the Second Annual Conference on Intercultural Rhetoric, ICIC sponsored a think tank on health discourse on Wednesday, July 21st at the IUPUI University Library. The goal of the four-hour program was to identify and explore researchable topics in health discourse in intercultural settings. Fifteen participants from a variety of professional disciplines and international backgrounds were invited.

The three foci for discussion

were: assessments of health professionals' communication skills; patient safety and compliance; and ethics in intercultural health settings, which were developed from participants' interests as indicated in an earlier questionnaire.

The format for the think tank included small group discussions where members deliberated on six issues regarding one of the three foci: purpose and research questions; previous research; inter-related disciplines; necessary methods,



data and resources; benefits; and funding sources. Following these hour-long discussions, each group presented a summary to the entire assembly, which led to an open discussion and a draft of a grant proposal.



The arrival of the students

Students in computer science class



ICIC Japanese ESP Programs—the old and the new

This summer (July 29-August 20, 2005), Tsuda College sent twenty-eight English and Computer Science students to Indianapolis for ICIC's annual ESP program. This year's program was taught by Pam Ruble and Kara McBride, both of whom have also participated in previous Tsuda programs. Tsuda 2005 was especially exciting because of the addition of a computer science component, with six students receiving ten hours of specialized instruction from IUPUI Computer and Information Science Department along with their regular English classes. This new section received great praise from the students and we hope it will remain a part of future programs.

The Tsuda Program's success (twelve years running!) has inspired

similar ESP programs at ICIC. On September 7, 2005, for the first time ever, a group of thirteen students from Japan's Hakuoh University will come for two weeks of language and culture instruction. The Hakuoh Program, taught by Chuck Fisher and Molly Anthony, will offer oral and written English courses and trips to attractions in Indianapolis and Indiana's Amish country.

As ICIC enters its second decade of offering exemplary English training programs, we gratefully look back on the support we have received from IUPUI and our collaborating institutions in Japan. We look forward to more innovative improvements and additions as we continue our Japanese ESP tradition in the years to come!

Postdoc Training Program

This September ICIC will offer a new ESP course tailored to international postdoctorals' specific needs. Research shows that international postdoctorals – both researchers and clinicians – need additional English language and cultural awareness training when they arrive in the U.S. Therefore, the course will focus on oral communication, research writing, grant proposal writing, cross-cultural issues in the laboratory, ethics in research, and career development. To accommodate the intense schedules of postdoctorals, the course will combine classroom teaching with e-learning and will extend over two semesters.

This course is a culmination of ICIC faculty research and planning over a number of years and has been approved by Vice-Chancellor Mark Brenner. In addition, administrators from several IUPUI departments that are directly involved with international postdoctorals have assisted in promoting the new course.

Orientation and assessment will be held Wednesday, September 14, 4:30-7:30 at the ICIC offices, UN 409. Interested postdoctorals and administrators should contact Pam Ruble, ICIC's language trainer, at the ICIC office 274-2555. Additional information can be found on our website, <http://www.iupui.edu/~icic/>.

**ICIC
welcomes
Liani Isabel
Añino!**

**Parents:
Alicia and
Leonel Añino**

**Born:
September 1,
2005
11:38am**

**Weight:
8 pounds, 11**



Alicia and Leonel Añino with their new daughter, Liani Isabel

Molly Anthony training ICIC's new R.A., Lyndsey Wellner



The 2005 Sixth Annual ESP Institute, by Sonya Lakey

July 1-15, 2005

While the shimmering heat of July in Indiana may turn one's thoughts to the more leisurely pursuits, for participants in the English for Specific Purposes (ESP) Institute, the summer of 2005 was about so much more than flip-flops and barbecues. I was pleased and excited to be among those taking part in this year's Institute, and I have benefited immeasurably from the knowledge I gained in two of the most information-packed weeks of my experience.

The ESP Institute introduces English as a Second Language (ESL) practitioners and English language educators to English for Specific Purposes - that is, to research-based ways of evaluating the need for English instruction, and of creating or adapting ESL teaching materials for use in specific settings. Though the core of the Institute was the courses offered: *Current Issues in ESP* (LING T600) with Dr. Ulla Connor, and *Materials Development for ESL Instruction* (ENG G541) with Dr. William Rozycki, this summer's Institute featured a well-rounded mix of people as diverse as the experiences they shared. International scholars - those visiting from other countries, as well as homegrown TESOL certificate recipients (and former IUPUI students) now living and teaching abroad - were an invaluable resource for us. In addition, we got a chance to interact with community-based ESL service providers, who offered their experiences and insights and answered our many questions.

The topics covered this year were wide-ranging in both scope and depth. In *Current Issues*, we discussed the theoretical underpinnings and the practical applications of effective English teaching in various settings. You may be as surprised as I to know what the utilization of such research-based teaching practices reveals. For example, in case you're interested in teaching or learning about the English most frequently used in a work-place set-

ting, did you know that up to half of the language needed in the typical workplace isn't about work, but is social in nature? (Who knew a little chatting about American Idol might be a good job skill?) We also explored the intriguing role of distance learning and its implications for the field. As for *Materials Development*, students had the opportunity to conceptualize and design a course for teaching English to nonnative speakers. Here we covered everything from needs analysis to selecting course books. This was especially interesting for me, as I am able to use the work I did for my project in my own teaching today.

Two ICIC visiting scholars from Spain enriched our experiences; Pilar Mur Dueñas, a doctoral candidate, and Dr. Miguel-F. Ruiz-Garrido, are both teaching ESP in their home countries. They shared with us about their work on the rhetorical differences between American and Spanish academic journal writing. This research is aimed at helping to facilitate publishing rates of Spanish scholars in American journals. And from the "local boy makes good" department, Mr. Kyle McIntosh is a program graduate who went on to teach in China. His story of cultural adaptation and of teaching struggles and successes gave each of us, I believe, an understanding of the potential that English teaching to speakers of other languages holds.

We were also given the opportunity to meet English-teaching practitioners from the Indianapolis community. Jennifer Olson, who coordinates ESL instruction in Clarian Hospitals, demonstrated how one organization is adapting to meet the needs of nonnative speakers who are interested in work with Clarian. Trish Morita-Mullaney discussed ESL instruction in Indianapolis K-12 schools and the unmet need for English language support that currently exists there. Chuck Fischer, a TESOL certified, soon-to-be MA recipient, described his work in training the

volunteer tutor staff of Catholic Social Services in Indianapolis; the goal there is to help meet the needs of new immigrants. Chuck also discussed the trainings he was able to give around the state, thanks to a grant from the Central Indiana Community Foundation, with additional support from the IUPUI English department and ICIC.

We were able to hear how one ICIC ESL instructor, Pam Ruble, creatively prepares materials specifically tailored to the needs of the individuals with whom she works. And IUPUI's own Dr. Aye Nu Duerksen demonstrated some of her own outstanding work on course design and materials development aimed at improving both the language and teaching skills of international teaching assistants. For those of us who were a part of this year's ESP Institute, hearing from these professionals first-hand imparted a sense of optimism about efforts in the state to meet the needs of nonnative speakers, as well as a strong indication of the work yet to be done in our community.

If you plan on participating in the ESP Institute, bear in mind that the pace of the two-week is intensive: up to seven classroom hours per day (for those who choose to take both courses) in addition to various seminars. It is definitely not for the faint of heart. But if you want thorough instruction and practical application opportunities in teaching English for Specific Purposes, as well as the chance to interact with those currently working in the field, the Institute provides many valuable tools for the English-teaching professional. I worked hard, learned a lot, and can't wait to share some of my new knowledge and skills with the English learners with whom I am so fortunate to work.

Sonya Lakey is an IUPUI graduate student who participated in the 2005 ESP Institute. Ms. Lakey is an EFL Coordinator for the HELP Adult Literacy/English as a Foreign Language Program at Hamilton East Public Library.



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The Indiana Center for Intercultural Communication

The Indiana Center for Intercultural Communication, ICIC, is a university-based research and service organization created to facilitate the expanding global linkages of the city of Indianapolis and the state of Indiana by developing and extending expertise in intercultural communication and language for specific purposes. The center is part of the IUPUI School of Liberal Arts Department of English. ICIC provides organizations and individuals with the tools to communicate more effectively by combining state of the art research with custom training in language and intercultural communication strategies.

Announcements

- ICIC was awarded the New Frontiers Arts & Humanities Program grant that will bring Professor Srikant Sarangi to ICIC as a visiting visionary scholar October 24 - November 11, 2005
- The new EU Center of Excellence has committed to funding ICIC's three-year proposal for workshops on medical discourse
- ICIC's Director, Ulla Connor, was featured in an interview in June's Finnish *Reader's Digest* as one of five "famous Finns abroad"
- On October 8th, ICIC's Director, Ulla Connor will receive the Linguistics Department's 2005 Outstanding Alumni Award from the University of Florida

2005-2006 ICIC Lecture Series

- Dr. Sandra Petronio of the IUPUI Communication Studies Department, School of Liberal Arts
When privacy fails
September 21, 2005
IUPUI, Cavanaugh Hall, room 508
4:00-5:00 p.m.
- Dr. Srikant Sarangi of Cardiff University in the United Kingdom
*Communicative responsibility, discourse analysis
and diversity in healthcare delivery*
November 9, 2005
IUPUI, Cavanaugh Hall, room 508
4:00-5:00 p.m.
- Professor John Swales of the University of Michigan
Academic writing and academic speech: One grammar or two?
February 8, 2006
IUPUI, Cavanaugh Hall, room 508
4:00-5:00 p.m.