
Brief Reports and Summaries

“Trends in Language Programme Evaluation”

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The international conference “Trends in Language Programme Evaluation” was organized by the Chulalongkorn University Language Institute, Bangkok, Thailand and took place from the 9th to the 11th of December, 1986. The venue was the Hyatt Central Plaza Hotel and Convention Center. Over 300 participants attended this conference.

The conference was graciously presided over by Her Royal Highness Princess Galayani Wattana. Professor Dr. Kasem Suwanagul, Rector of Chulalongkorn University gave a report on the conference. Her Royal Highness Princess Galayani Wattana delivered the opening address. And, Dr. Subin Pinkayan, Minister of University Affairs, gave the keynote address.

The themes of the conference were evaluation of language programmes/language needs in business and the professions; approaches to evaluation; programme design; use of quantitative tests; qualitative evaluation; and practical approaches.

The conference offered plenary sessions, parallel sessions, workshops and a panel discussion.

The titles and the speakers of the *plenary sessions* are as follows.

Title	Speaker
I. The Nature of the Beast	Charles Alderson
II. Making Sense in Teaching and Testing	John W. Oller, Jr.
III. The Development and Use of Criterion-Referenced Tests of Language Proficiency in Language Program Evaluation	Lyle F. Bachman
IV. The Teacher as Evaluator	Margaret Falvey
V. An Evaluation of the Contribution of Language Ability in a Bilingual Setting to Pupil Achievement	Mitagos D. Ibe
VI. Changing Models of Language Program Evaluation : A Case Study	Theodore Rodgers

For *parallel sessions*, here is a list of speakers, grouped according to the theme on which they spoke.

Evaluation of Language Programmes/

Language Needs in Business and the Professions

Chavanich, Karen

Stupak, Steven A.

Approaches to Evaluation

Brown, James D.

Hall, David and Kenny, Brian

Palmer, Adrian

Nyyssonen, Heikki

Pitayanuwat, Somwung

Sukamolson, Suphat

Wijasuriya, Basil S.

Programme Design

Chamberlain, Richard
Sibayan, Bonifacio P.

Harris, Richard

Use of Quantitative Tests

Allan, Alistair
Clark, John L.D.
Ibe, Milagros
Pholsward, Ruja

Cartier, Francis
Lange, Dale L.
Prapphal, Kanchana
Thrasher, Randolph

Qualitative Evaluation

Maurice, Keith

Swan, John

Practical Approaches

Castillo, Emma S.
Gradman, Harry
Low, Graham D.
Ross, Steven
Zefran, Nicholas C.

Falvey, Margaret
Kral, Thomas
Punyaratabhandhu, Bhikul
Silva, Joyce

Workshop presenters are also grouped according to their theme.

**Evaluation of Language Programmes/
Language Needs in Business and the Professions**

Stupak, Steven A.

Programme Design

Wangsotorn, Achara

Use of Quantitative Tests

Falvey, Peter

Oller, John W.

Qualitative Evaluation

Behan, Anthony
Schneider, Linda

Lee, Susan M.

Practical Approaches

Castillo, Emma S.

Jones, Robert

For the panel discussion, the panellists were Emma Castillo, Margaret Falvey, Charles Alderson, John W. Oller, Jr., Lyle F. Bachman and Theodore Rodgers.

All the presentations that the writer attended gave her knowledge and food for thought. However, what the writer found most interesting were the questions asked and the comments made by participants. For example, a participant asked a speaker if the abstract term of "proficiency" hindered us from talking about particular domains of ability. The speaker agreed entirely and added that his idea of proficiency included not only abstract competencies but the implementation of these abilities and the constant reassessment of one's use of language to ensure communication. Another example : a speaker reported that in one of his listening comprehension questions, he asked the students to give a summary of a news report. A participant commented that in a survey done in Los Angeles, most native speakers of English could not give a summary of a news report. In some sessions, unfortunately, time constraints prevented audience participation and questions.

Besides being informative and thought-provoking, the conference was also enjoyable. Many speakers told us tales and amusing anecdotes. A speaker even sang a song for us. Even though the writer has forgotten some academic information from the presentations, the tales, anecdotes and the song will always remain in her memory and help to reinforce the speakers' most salient points.