

天主教輔仁大學英國語文學系學士班畢業成果
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT, FU JEN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
GRADUATION PROJECT 2023

指導教授：董多芳老師

Dr. Donna Tong

真善美聖

**Reflection on Participating in the
2022 Fall Department Newsletter**

SANCTITAS BONITAS

PULCHRITUDO

VERITAS

學生：張正怡撰

Monica Cheng-Yi Chang

天主教輔仁大學英國語文學系學士班畢業成果

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT, FU JEN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY GRADUATION PROJECT

2023

指導教授: 董多芳

Dr. Donna Tong

Course Title: 新聞英文(一): 電子報

學生: 張正怡

English Name: Monica Chang



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Introduction of the Production Process

Before the class began writing the required articles, we were asked to view several textbooks and prepare a few presentations concerning their highlight. By doing so, we could recognize the various types of news writings and design our articles proposal. After completing the above training and job division among the crew, we officially started to compose the topics for the 2022 Fall FJU English Department Newsletter, *The New Abnormal*.

First of all, we had to fill out the timetable regarding the deadline for each article to make sure the crew had enough time to review and edit others' writings. According to the schedule, every one of us had found the interviewees related to our topics, conducted interviews with them, examined the full content, and turned it into a news article before handing it to the next copy editors. In other words, following the timetable was the most important guideline for us to mind; otherwise, we would not have had sufficient time to redraft our and others' articles. On top of that, we were also demanded to report the writing progress with Pro. Donna, while busy producing or copyediting the remaining news articles about twice a month.

Secondly, execute the fundraising plan. To ensure we could have an adequate budget to print the department magazine in the next semester with a better quality, Pro. Donna ordered us to promote the incoming magazine while finding sponsorship around and outside the campus.

Since other units were also searching for merchants to finance their activities, we had to emphasize the benefits of funding our department magazine to stand out. In the meantime, we were required to prepare the sponsorship proposal for them to raise their willingness to support our activity, which took a lot of time and energy.

The last step is to design the newsletters' color scheme and layout type. The people responsible for creating the Facebook and Instagram fan page were asked to follow the chosen style to maintain design consistency between the website and the fan page of the newsletter. There was no exaggeration to say that this was the most challenging part based on the concern of the word size, format structure, article arrangement, etc.

Difficulties Encountered During the Course

As editor-in-chief, I was in charge of my writings and other articles. For instance, before they were handed into Pro. Donna, I needed to confirm that they were written in the correct format, whether they reached the primary requirement, and if every author had written a proper lede for their news stories. Not to mention that I was required to keep my eyes on the timetable in case someone submitted the late script, which further influenced our schedule negatively. In addition, since I was the bridge between the rest of the team and Pro. Donna, I was also responsible for communicating with the professor if something uncertain or problematic happened.

The most demanding part for me is checking every writing to avoid grammatical errors, inappropriate usage of words and tone, lack of lede, and plagiarism. As a matter of fact, I encountered plagiarism twice during copy editing of a person's articles. I still remember the first time when I checked his writings. I felt extremely weird while reading his works, including the analysis, usage of style, and details, which stopped me from correcting the grammatical errors, but instead, they led me to surf the Net for related information online. Unexpectedly, I found several articles written in Chinese that had the same content as his. As editor-in-chief, I report to Pro. Donna immediately about what I had discovered. The professor, however, asked me to warn and instruct the student to rewrite it on my own. This was the moment that I knew I could only rely on myself instead of expecting the instructor would resolve issues for me.

After communicating with the person who copied his work from Chinese articles and ensuring he would not do it again, everything turned out to be excellent. Every one of us followed the schedule and therefore, we could finish all the copyediting on time. Even though the process of producing the department newsletter took the whole crew and the professor a lot of effort and time, we all have learned a meaningful lesson from this experience.

Personal Portfolio (articles)

Who Says It Is Useless to Study Foreign Languages: What an English Degree Did for Us

On August 12, as the University Admission Committee released the latest data of this year's college placement results, the foreign language group had the most increased shortage of 62.47%, which became the highest among all departments. It is uncertain whether students' proficiency in literature and linguistics is useless or unprofitable in today's society, but some of the English department graduates from Fu Jen University have shared what an English degree did for them.

Fascinated by drama and stage at an early age, Jennifer Lin desired to study in a drama-related department during her senior high school years. "My parents prohibited me from choosing the drama department at that time," Jennifer said in an online interview last week. "It was then that I decided to enter the English Department at Fu Jen Catholic University for its unique courses in English theater performance." During her life in the English department, Jennifer admitted that she was not aware of what she had learned until she attended the internship program at National Theatre and Concert Hall. As an intern responsible for touring her workplace, assisting the shows, and designing publicity plans, Jennifer explained her daily routine was composed of organizing points and constructing ideas. With the critical thinking ability and organizational skills gained from analyzing a wide range of literary works in the English Department, she was able to accomplish those unattainable tasks. Additionally, Jennifer assumed the abilities also helped with her performance in theater training. "As I read the text, I could translate the mindset, sensations, and thoughts of the characters into my personal feelings." Jennifer said confidently, "In this way, I can express emotions that I have never experienced in person when acting, which allows me to be more in tune with the different roles than my peers."

Amigo Chiang, who decided to enter the English department because of her outstanding English grades, recalled in an online interview last week, "Most of my friends assumed I

could only become a teacher, a translator, or a flight attendant. I thought, ‘How can you speculate or make a conclusion about my future, just based on what I study?’” While studying, Amigo was introduced to the marketing industry by chance and became very interested in learning more about commerce. To develop her second expertise unrestrictedly, Amigo not only attended relevant courses offered by the English department but also actively participated in marketing-related internships in her freshman year. During her internship interviews, Amigo was often asked by interviewers why an English student would want to work as an intern in the marketing industry. Amigo explained, “I realized that part of marketing requires creativity, and you can’t learn it from books alone.” As an English major, Amigo considered English an advantage when communicating and emailing with foreign companies and clients. In addition, the training in the English department, which often encourages students to challenge others’ statements and develop their own viewpoints, also allows Amigo to construct her views within an organized structure when reporting to supervisors and proposing innovative ideas for her marketing projects. Amigo concludes at the end, “English does not necessarily enable me to get a raise, but it helps me to earn extra points for impressions, which makes me stand out among my colleagues.”

“I had enjoyed reading Chinese books since I was a junior high school student,” said Steven Hsu, “and eventually, I also began to wonder about the literary worlds of English.” Full of curiosity and fantasies toward the English language, Steven encountered an unexpected “turning point” when he entered the English Department. Owing to the complicated assignments and research reports in the department, Steven suffered from procrastination and maladaptation. “Thanks to the countless assignments, I was forced to recognize my psychological problems and, ultimately, embark on a journey to explore myself.” With the assistance of the Student Counseling Center in FJU, not only did his psychological state gradually improve but he also began to develop an interest in psychology. “At that time, the consulting firm was a life preserver, which brought me to shore,” Steven

expressed with gratitude, “I felt a sense of duty to give back and to help those who were also tormented psychologically.” Since then, he has taken many psychology courses and read extensively in relevant academic journals. Moreover, the writing classes in the English Department have also provided him with adequate opportunities to write about psychological topics. Through years of self-training, Steven regards proficiency in English literature and language as what enables him to read words under the surface of things and comprehend psychological textbooks that are not translated properly. Moreover, Steven also learned how to analyze literature during his years in the English Department, which has helped him analyze people and their feelings when studying psychology. Finally, Steven shared at the end, “Since we don’t make much money studying English culture and literature, we know how to find new standards to measure our value instead of valuing ourselves with money. We, therefore, should endeavor to make our experience more valuable than it is.”



An Inevitable Fact: What Difficulties Has the English Department at FJU Been Facing?

According to the latest data from the University Entrance Examination and Placement Committee (UEC), the foreign language group has the highest shortage of 62.47% for undergraduate enrollment among all departments, which results in the language-related departments of public and private schools suffering from this severe shortage. Hence, there is an inevitable fact that the English Department at Fu Jen University has also been encountering a demanding enrollment crisis since this year.

Yun-Pi Yuan, an associate professor in the Fu Jen English department specializing in linguistics, language assessment, and remedial teaching, considers the hardships of student recruiting as a result of not only Taiwan's low birth rate but its political policy. As a result of Taiwan's opposition to China in recent years, there has been a gradual loss of exchange and international mainland Chinese students, which has influenced the number of overseas students in the English department. "Without adequate students, higher institutions encountering severe enrollment shortage is just a matter of time, even if the department's faculty and curriculum are already flawless," Professor Yuan said.

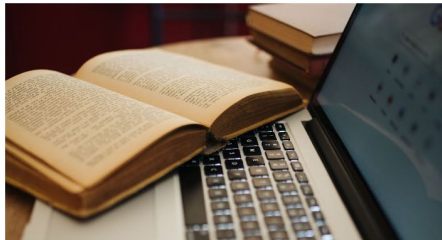
Although the total enrollment for BA admission was not affected harshly, Julie Lee, the secretary of the English department at FJU, explains that the quality of students is less satisfactory than in previous years. In the past, the department used oral exams to examine students at the individual application stage of the academic test to recruit students with a strong motivation for learning English literature and language. Unfortunately, due to the decrease in the number of students who not only attended the college entrance exam but also decided to forgo studying foreign languages this year, fewer students were selected in the individual application stage than in previous years. Hence, the remaining vacancies in the FJU English department had to be filled with students from the second stage of the placement exam, meaning they may not be as enthusiastic as those who entered the first stage. Consequently, the number of students in the FJU English department is sufficient, but their

quality is decreasing.

In addition to the issue of quantity and quality of enrollment, Julie further mentions the prejudice caused by the bilingual policy. “In my personal view, I regard the bias that Taiwanese believe studying in the English department is worthless since everyone can speak English by receiving compulsory education is the most prominent crisis we are facing now.” To put it another way, learning English as a subject is ultimately different from treating it as a language. The skills that an English department can offer students are more than communicating and composing in English, such as developing critical thinking, self-perspective, and teamwork. Thus, it is an urgent challenge to deepen high school students’ understanding of the English department and motivate their interest in learning English literature and cultures.

To reverse prejudices about the English Department, Professor Yuan, and Secretary Julie both share how the department attempted to combine English literature with technology, business, and teaching so that students’ future pathways can be more diverse. In fact, according to Professor Yuan, such a strategy has already brought a significant effect on MA admission. “During the interview for the master’s degree program, some interviewees came here because they are interested in courses such as TESOL and Multimedia Instruction Track, which is currently the particular course offered only by Fu Jen English department,” says Professor Yuan. “Therefore, what we can do now is to keep endeavoring to design courses that are exclusive in the English department.”

Works (newsletter and website)



About This Newsletter

Both educational and entertaining, the articles published in our newsletter will allow everyone to learn more about the university, the extra-curricular activities available on campus and in our department, as well as the available resources to assist students in order to facilitate their academic journey.

<https://sites.google.com/view/2022-fju-newsletter/homepage?pli=1>

The cover of the 2023 FJU English Department Newsletter. At the top, it reads "FU JEN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE 2023 NEWSLETTER THE NEW ABNORMAL". Below this is a photograph of a modern lounge area with large windows and the words "CONNECT THE DOTS" displayed in large letters. The bottom half of the cover features a table of contents with two columns: "DEPARTMENT NEWS" and "CAMPUS NEWS".

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http://english.fju.edu.tw/word/engdep_newsletter/Newsletter_2022F.pdf

Reflections and Future Study

Writing essays and research papers is never effortless; in fact, it has already taken us over four years to learn how to write an article without making any grammatical and tone errors. On the other hand, newsletters and magazine articles are different types of writing compared with research papers. Hence, it was challenging for us to learn the differences between them and general articles and attempt to create the work ourselves. However, the demanding process of constructing intriguing topics, conducting various interviews, writing news stories, and designing the layout taught us an unforgettable lesson. That is, communicating with the team can make a lot of difference.

If I have to select the most required skill in this course, it is teamwork. It is necessary to let the whole crew know in advance so that adjustments can be made if one encounters issues such as finding unsuitable interviewees, writing irrelevant topics, or forgetting to hand in his or her articles on time. Otherwise, the procedure may be delayed. Thus, unlike other practices or presentations, producing department newsletters and magazine demand more cooperation.

Although I will not be an editor in the future, what I have learned from this course remains useful whenever I read a news article or a magazine. I can comprehend the content structure in a short time, not to mention that I can even appreciate all the delicate details and layouts. To sum up, I am really thankful not only to myself for deciding to join this course but also to Pro. Donna for teaching me to be responsible for my choice.