

Report on China's Tenth DA Conference

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The Tenth China National Conference on Discourse Analysis was held from October 20th to 22nd in Shaoxing University, Zhejiang Province. The theme of the conference was “Discourse Analysis from a Multi-dimensional Perspective”, involving (1) The Appraisal Theory and Positive Discourse analysis; (2) Critical Discourse Analysis and (3) Applications of DA in language teaching, translation and literary studies. 148 participants from over 60 institutions of higher learning and publishing houses in China attended this conference. 11 plenary speakers and 76 participants presented their papers either in the plenary sessions or the parallel sessions. The topics covered an extensive scope: in addition to DA from the SF perspective, there were also analyses from the neuro-cognitive, discussion on the construction of ideational structure. The analyses of the papers involved languages such as English, Chinese and Japanese. Three points were noteworthy: (1) There were reforms on the selection of plenary speakers: most were young or middle-aged scholars so as to encourage the development in SFL and DA among the younger generation; (2) There were active discussions in the parallel sessions due to the insightful presentations by quite a few senior researchers; and (3) Chauncey C. Chu (Professor Emeritus, University of Florida, U.S.A.), a well-known scholar in Chinese studies, also gave a plenary speech, which aroused a further interest in the study of Chinese. Indeed the papers delivered demonstrate a big step forward both in terms of depth and width as compared with those presented at previous conferences.

On October 19th, the Working Committee of China Functional Association had its annual meeting, at which the organizer reported the preparation work of this conference, Huang Guowen, Chair of China Association of Functional Linguistics, reported on the work done during the previous two years, and the committee voted to decide on the location for the 11th DA conference – to be held in Xianmen University in 2008.

(Note: The 10th Chinese National Conference on Functional Linguistics will take place in the middle of April next spring in Jiangxi Normal University, Nanchang, Jiangxi Province. Before the conference, the 7th Systemics Week will be held, and Jim Martin is invited to be one of the lecturers.)