#### 110-2學期EMI 講座系列 2 全英語授課: 老師的挑戰 和學生的困境

講者: 吳文舜

連鎖品牌美語教學機構執行長 中華大學人社院EMI課程任課老師

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主辦單位:語言中心 指導單位:教發中心

連絡電話:03-5186618 范小姐

# EMI: challenges to teachers and difficulties of students

by Michael Wu

**April 18, 2022** 

## Outline

- Introduction my research findings
- Why and how should schools implement EMI?
- Challenges to EMI teachers
- Difficulties and problems of EMI students
- Collocation and terminology
- EMI teaching strategies









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#### Research Background

- Subjects
  - 28 graduate students studying in the spring semester of 2006 at CHU
  - Applied Mathematics: 11
  - Mechanical Engineering: 9
  - Technology Management: 8
- English proficiency
  - Fair in reading: 57%
  - Fair in speaking: 46%
  - Poor in reading: 25%
  - Poor in speaking: 39%

in listening: 54%

in writing: 43%

in listening: 32%

in writing: 46%



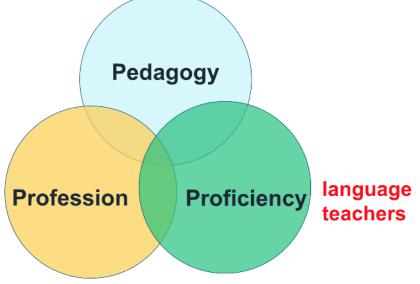
## **Major Findings**

- students' attitudes toward EMI: contradictory
  - English proficiency (fair and poor) vs. students are in favor of EMI language policy
- More EMI courses should be offered (93%)
  - Support EMI language policy vs. Don't grab the chance to use written and oral English
- MOI (medium of instruction) for CHU: contradictory
  - Chinese supplemented with English (71%)
  - English supplemented with Chinese (18%)
- Disadvantages of EMI
  - Difficult to understand the course content (82%)
  - Stop students from expressing themselves smoothly in class (86%)
  - Discourage discussion and interaction between professors and students (54%)

#### What is EMI?

• English Medium Instruction (EMI) refers to the use of English language to teach <u>academic subjects</u> (other than English itself) in countries where the first language of the majority of the population is not English.

~ Department of Education, University of Oxford



content

teachers

## The goal of EMI

 "In EMI courses English is the conduit through which content subjects are delivered: students acquire knowledge of content material while, ideally, also improving their English language proficiency. Key to distinguishing EMI from other methods is the ancillary role of English language development – a side effect of instruction rather than an explicit pedagogical target" (Briggs and Smith, 2017, p.28)

# Why do we need to improve English language proficiency?

- English ≠ smart
- English ≠ good learners
- English as an international language of communication
  - English is the lingua franca of the international society.
  - You can acquire the firsthand professional knowledge through English.
- English is necessary tool for global mobility.
- With a good command of English, you have a better chance to obtain high-paying jobs or win a promotion.

## Why will schools implement EMI?

#### purpose of EMI

- For schools
  - attract more international students
    - How about students from non-native English countries?
  - internationalization of higher education
    - English as an international language of communication

#### For local students

- learn firsthand knowledge via English
- offer a natural setting for students to use English

#### For international students

- students of native English speakers can continue their study at CHU
- students of non-native English speakers who are not good at Mandarin can study at CHU



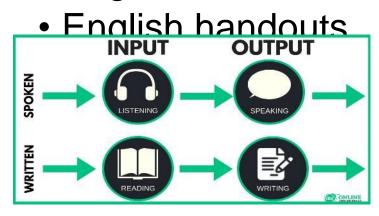
# How should EMI be implemented in terms of language skills?

#### Listening

 Can students have comprehensible input?

#### Reading

English textbooks



#### Speaking

- 100% EMI policy?
- Presentation in English?
   Group discussion? Office hours?

#### Writing

- Assessment in English
- Homework in English
- Note-taking in English

## How should EMI be implemented? (1)

- 100% English policy for teachers and students?
- English supplemented with Chinese?
- Multilingual or monolingual classroom?
- Content teachers teach in English? Language teachers teach content knowledge?

## How should EMI be implemented? (2)

Content teachers and language teachers co-teach a class?
 At the same time or different time?

 Language tutors help content teachers? Teaching assistants with content knowledge help language teachers?

How can content teachers and language teachers

effectively collaborate?



## How should EMI be implemented? (3)

- Should we give students English proficiency test before they can take EMI courses? Should we group students based on the results of their English proficiency test?
- How does EMI affect local language? Should EMI be implemented in elementary schools? high schools? Or only in tertiary institutes?
- How should EMI courses be assessed? Should students' English proficiency be considered a factor to pass the course? What about if students don't understand the content because they don't understand the English?

## Challenges to content teachers (1)

- Students with low English ability
- Students with diverse English proficiency
- Content teacher's accent/pronunciation and limited English language ability
- Insufficient and limited support for content teachers
  - no financial incentives / no reduced teaching hours
  - no language training support for content teachers
  - no language tutors for content teachers
  - no written guidelines for how to teach through EMI

## Challenges to content teachers (2)

- Effective materials, strategies, and assessment tools need to be found or created.
- It's harder for students to learn the content.
- Extra work and time for the EMI instructors
- Lecturers often feel underprepared for teaching EMI.

## Challenges to language teachers

- It takes a lot of effort and many years of learning/training for language teachers to acquire interdisciplinary knowledge so that they can offer certain EMI courses.
- Even acting as a supportive role, not so many language teachers are familiar with other academic disciplines or are interested in learning interdisciplinary knowledge.
- There are no academic or financial incentives for language teachers to develop interdisciplinary skills.

## Difficulties and problems of students

- English proficiency
  - reading
  - listening
  - speaking
  - writing
- Low motivation
- Not familiar with content materials in English
- Students are often not prepared for EMI courses.

## Learning vocabulary in EMI courses

gross domestic product (GDP) [economics]
casting [mechanical engineering]
non-fungible token (NFT) [information technology]
sustainable development goals (SDGs) [environment]

significant [statistics] futures [stock market]

by, cause, whether, like

estimate, interpret, principle, verify

#### How did you memorize English words?

- Ochinese definition
- **2**part of speech noun, verb, or adjective
- **Ospelling**
- **Opronunciation**
- **Ophrasal verbs**
- **Oidioms**
- **O**examples



#### Free online ESL dictionary (1)

http://ldoceonline.com



Welcome to Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English Online
Longman Diccionario Conciso (English-Latin American Spanish)
Longman English-Japanese Dictionary
Longman English-Korean Dictionary

## Free online ESL dictionary (2)

https://dictionary.cambridge.org/



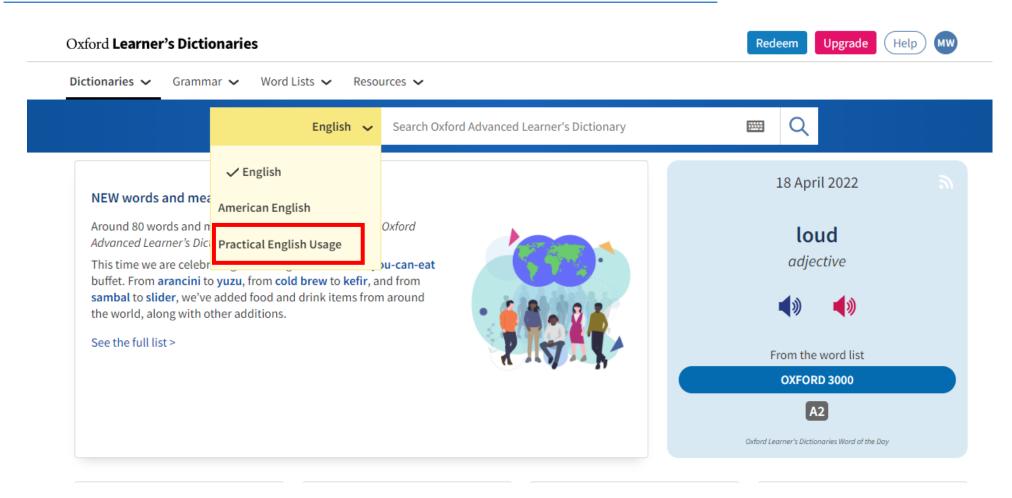
#### **Explore the Cambridge Dictionary**





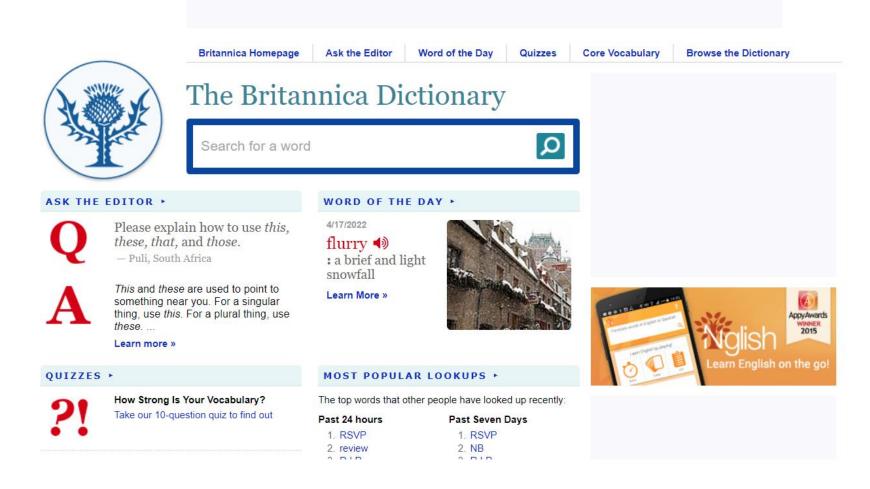
## Free online ESL dictionary (3)

#### https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/



## Free online ESL dictionary (4)

https://www.britannica.com/dictionary



#### Free online ESL dictionary (5)

https://www.macmillandictionary.com/



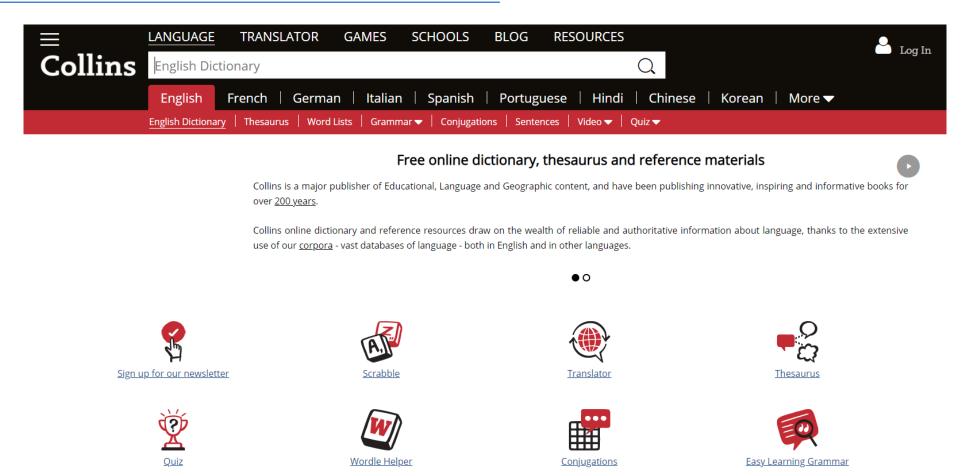
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#### Free online ESL dictionary (6)

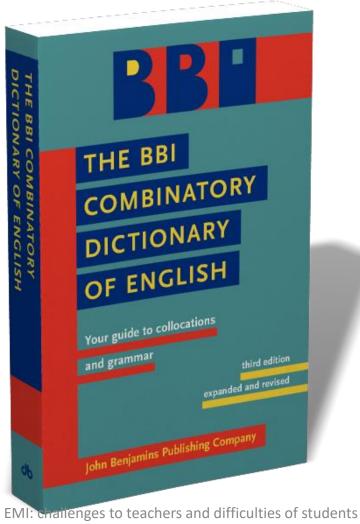
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#### How can we make passive words active?

- collocation
- ■In English, as in other languages, there are many fixed, identifiable, non-idiomatic phrases and constructions. Such groups of words are called recurrent combinations, fixed combinations, or collocations. Collocations fall into two major groups: grammatical collocations and lexical collocations. (Benson et al.,1986b:ix)

#### The BBI Dictionary of English Word **Combinations**



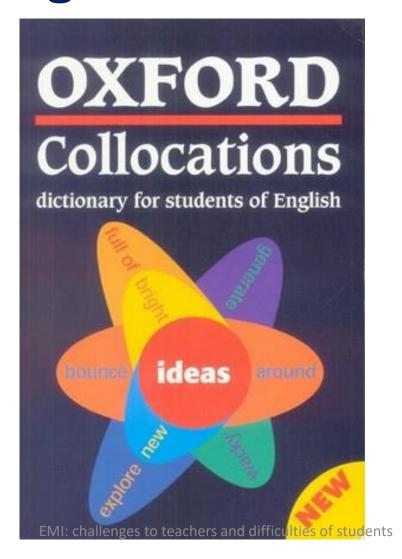
#### responsibility

•responsibility n. ["accountability"] ["obligation"] 1. to accept, assume, bear, shoulder, take, take on (a) ~ 2. to exercise, have (a) ~ 3. to discharge a ~ 4. to abandon, abdicate, disclaim, dodge, evade, shirk (a) ~ 5. to delegate, share, shift (a) ~ 6. an awesome, grave, great, heavy, terrible (colloq.); clear ~ 7. (a) collective; joint; moral; personal ~ 8. the ultimate ~ (the ultimate ~ rested with the president) 9. (a) ~ falls on; lies; rests with smb.10. (a) ~ for (to bear the ~ for the smooth operation of the assembly line)...

#### examination

●examination n. ["test"] ["set of questions"] 1. to administer, conduct, give an ~ 2. to draw up, make up, prepare, set (BE) an ~ 3. to invigilate (BE), monitor, proctor (AE), supervise an ~ 4. to do (BE), sit (BE), take an ~ 5. to fail, flunk (AE; colloq.); pass an ~ 6. a difficult, stiff; easy ~ 7. a bar; civil-service 8. a comprehensive; doctoral; master's ~ 9. an end-of-term (BE); final; make-up ~ 10. an essay; multiple-choice; open-book; true-false ~ 11. an oral; written ~

# OXFORD Collocations dictionary for students of English



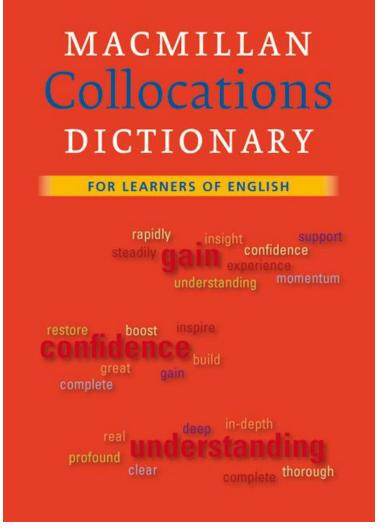
## inflation (1)

- ADJ. high | low, moderate | zero | galloping, raging, rampant, rising, runaway, soaring, spiraling, uncontrollable | double-digit | consumer-price, price, wage | domestic
- •VERB + INFLATION cause | fuel, push up, raise | beat, bring down/under control, check, combat, control, curb, cut, fight, get down/under control, keep down, keep in check, keep under control, reduce | keep pace with

## inflation (2)

- ●INFLATION + VERB. be up | be down *Inflation is down its* lowest level in three years. | exceed sth, reach sth *Inflation* reached a monthly rate of 5%. | average sth, be at sth, run at sth, stand at sth *Inflation is running at 4%*. | edge up, go up, increase, rise | fall, go down, slow *Inflation has slowed to 7%*. | erode sth savings eroded by inflation
- ●INFLATION + NOUN figures, rate an inflation rate of 2% | forecast, target

#### **Macmillan Collocations Dictionary**



## Free online collocation dictionary (1)

- Oxford Collocations Dictionary for Students of English
- https://www.freecollocation.com/

#### **Online Collocation Dictionary**

Q

A completely new type of dictionary with word collocation that will help students and advanced learners **effectively study**, **write and speak natural-sounding English**. This *online dictionary* is also very helpful for the education of the IELTS, TOEFL test.

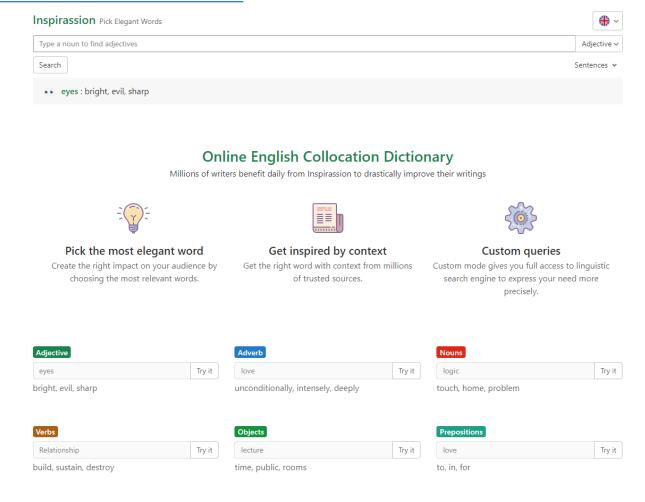
Level: Upper-Intermediate to Advanced

Key features of oxford dictionary online

- Collocations/collocation common word combinations such as 'bright idea' or 'talk freely' are the essential building blocks of natural-sounding English. The dictionary contains over
  150,000 collocations for nearly 9,000 headwords.
- The dictionary shows all the words that are commonly used in combination with each headword: nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and prepositions as well as common phrases.
- The collocation dictionary is based on 100 million word British National Corpus. Internet searches were made to ensure most up-to-date usage for fast changing areas of language like computing.
- 4. Over 50,000 examples show how the collocation/collocations are used in context, with grammar and register information where helpful.
- The clear page layout groups collocations according to part of speech and meaning, and helps users pinpoint speedily the headword, sense and collocation they need.
- Usage notes show collocation/collocations shared by sets of words such as languages and seasons.
- 7. Taking an ideal assessment and an artist of the Conford Advanced Transaction Distinguish

## Free online collocation dictionary (2)

#### https://inspirassion.com/en/



#### **Examples of ESP collocation for IT**

- allocate memory to each application
- burn CD-Rs at 32x and CD-RWs at 12x
- data are encrypted as they are they are transmitted across a network
- Users are required to uninstall the game from their computer or to purchase the full version of the game.
- A hard disk spins at about 7,200 revolutions per minute.
- ...the client broadcasts a DHCPREQUEST message containing the IP address of the server

## Abbreviations, initials and acronyms (1)

- Abbreviations can be formed from the first letters of the word or phrase. In such cases, we normally say them by spelling out each letter:
  - PC: personal computer
  - IT: information technology
  - WHO: World Health Organization
- An initial is the first letter of a word. We often use initials to refer to the names of countries and organizations:
  - USA: United States of America
  - BBC: British Broadcasting Corporation

## Abbreviations, initials and acronyms (2)

- Acronyms are words which are formed from the first letters of other words, and which are pronounced as full words:
  - NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization
  - scuba: self-contained underwater breathing apparatus
- Newer acronyms are written with capital letters.
- Some acronyms are pronounced as a combination of letters and syllables:
  - jpeg file
  - CD-ROM
- We use some acronyms in the plural or possessive:
  - NATO's foreign policy has been criticized recently.

## **Examples of acronym in International Relations**

- COP26: the 26<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties
- UNFCCC: the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- SDG/SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals
- CPTPP: the Comprehensive Progress Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (跨太平洋夥伴全面進步協定)
- RCEP: the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (區域全面經濟夥伴協定)
- ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations (東南亞國家協會; 東協十國)

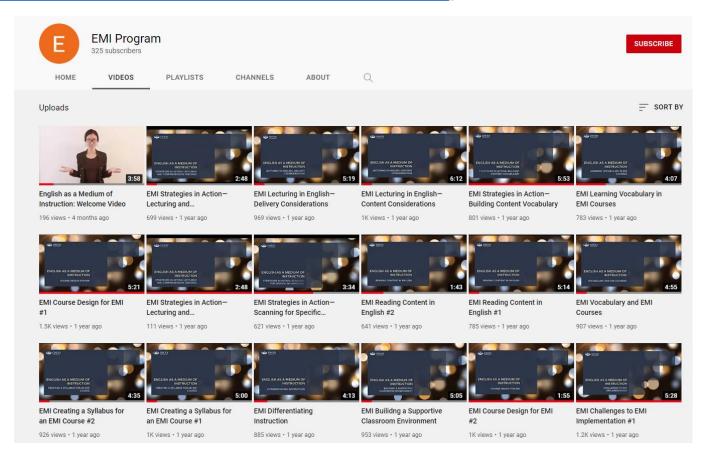
#### Frameworks of major Asia-Pacific trade deals



Source: Compiled by Nikkei Asia

#### **EMI Youtube resources**

EMI program (<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4-n8uLQ4Xtmgw\_OHx2GJFA/videos">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4-n8uLQ4Xtmgw\_OHx2GJFA/videos</a>)



## **EMI** teaching strategies

- Use interactive and student-centered teaching methods
- Use specific questions to check comprehension
- Make the best use of online English resources



#### Conclusion

 "Whether the decisions made about EMI will finally succeed or not is not certain but is worthy of attention. After all, the language policy formulated from people of power and authority rather than from users' linguistic awareness about the importance of a certain language is not easy to carry out."