Michael McCarthy

Biodata

Michael McCarthy is Emeritus Professor of Applied Linguistics, University of Nottingham, UK, Adjunct Professor of Applied Linguistics, Pennsylvania State University, USA, and Adjunct Professor of Applied Linguistics, University of Limerick, Ireland. He is author/co-author/editor of more than 30 books and more than 70 academic papers. He is co-director (with Ronald Carter) of the 5-million word CANCODE spoken English corpus project, and the one-million word CANBEC spoken business English corpus. He has lectured on language and language teaching in 38 countries and has been actively involved in ELT for 41 years.

Abstract

Working with learner grammar data: getting our hands on the corpus

In this workshop we look at evidence from spoken and written corpora as to how learners cope with learning common features of grammar. We will work with corpus output showing how learners use everyday verbs and their common collocations, and how they cope with grammatical problems such as countability, verb complementation and other everyday features at different levels of proficiency. We examine error statistics and, most importantly, look at the contexts in which learners produce language (exams, classroom work) and the tasks they are performing. Our aim will be to investigate how such evidence can be used to better understand the issues involved in benchmarking levels and establishing agreed common standards.