Writing Right: Writing Accurately and Clearly

Aim:

The aim of this workshop is to help postgraduate students improve their writing by raising their awareness of linguistic features and rhetorical devices in academic writing.

Content:

This workshop focuses on cohesion and accuracy, elements which are crucial to effective academic writing. Topics that will be covered include information structure in a sentence, as well as some frequently used rhetorical devices to show the writer's stance and to express the strength of a claim appropriately in academic writing. Examples will be drawn from authentic academic texts for illustration. Students will also be provided with materials on how to use a concordancer with authentic texts, which enables writers to enhance language accuracy through examining language patterns in real writing samples.

Organization:

This is a 3-hour workshop, in which students explore language features and rhetorical devices in authentic academic writing.

Enrollment:

Each workshop is limited to a maximum of 30 students. This workshop focuses on in-depth analysis of academic texts at the sentence level, and students will find it helpful to take this workshop before and in conjunction with **Introduction to Thesis Writing (The Humanities & Related Disciplines)** and **Introduction to Thesis Writing (The Sciences & Related Disciplines)**. While the workshop is oriented towards postgraduate students whose first language is not English, students whose first language is English can also benefit from a closer examination of different language features in academic writing.

Tasks:

A short writing task on the student's own research topic will be assigned with formative feedback given by the workshop facilitator.

Outcomes:

At the end of the workshop, students' awareness of different language features and rhetorical devices in academic writing will be enhanced. In particular, students will be able to:
- identify linguistic features of academic writing; and
- demonstrate their awareness of these linguistic features in their own writing.