GRSC Thesis Writing

Hong Kong Graduate Corpus (HKGC)

Questionnaire for Students

Part I – Introduction

You are invited to participate in a research study conducted by XXXX (Principal Investigator) at the Centre for Applied English Studies of the University of Hong Kong. The purpose of the study is to collect opinions from students like you, who have enrolled in the Thesis Writing course, on your perceptions of the disciplinary corpus, Hong Kong Graduate Corpus (HKGC), and the set of tasks, in improving your thesis writing skills and enhancing your disciplinary-specific linguistic knowledge. The information collected will help support the development of HKGC and the corresponding course materials and evaluate the impact of data-driven learning approach using disciplinary corpus on enhancing students' academic literacy.

You are asked to complete an anonymous online questionnaire. This will take 5-8 minutes. At the end of the questionnaire, you will be asked to indicate your willingness to participate in a focus group interview, which will take about 40-50 minutes and will be audio-recorded. You can choose to terminate the questionnaire at any time without negative consequences. I would like to stress that all information collected will remain strictly confidential. Individual details will not be disclosed or identifiable from this questionnaire. Data containing personal information including your name if given for participation in a focus group interview will be anonymised prior to analyse and at all stages during the dissemination process. All data provided will be securely deleted upon publication of the results.

If you have any questions about the research, please feel free to contact XXXX at XXXX or XXXX. If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact the Human Research Ethics Committee, XXXX (XXXX).

☐ I understand the procedures described above and agree to participate in this study (tick box and proceed to Part II).

Part II – Questions

1. Personal Information

Faculty: _____

Department:_____

Curriculum: PhD / MPhil

Year of Study: 1/2/3/4/5/6

Native English: Yes / No

2. Writing Reference Tools

What tools do you use when writing your thesis drafts?

Tool	How often?	Name of tool you have used
Dictionaries (e.g. online dictionaries)	Often Sometimes Rarely Never	
Smartphone apps	Often Sometimes Rarely Never	
Spellcheckers or grammar checkers	Often Sometimes Rarely Never	
Language learning websites (e.g. writing advice websites)	Often Sometimes Rarely Never	
Translation sites	Often Sometimes Rarely Never	
Social media	Often Sometimes Rarely Never	
Corpora	Often Sometimes Rarely Never	
Others	Often Sometimes Rarely Never	

3. Experience in using Hong Kong Graduate Corpus (HKGC)

	Strongly Agree ←----------→ Strongly Disagree				
1. It was easy to learn to use the corpus.	1	2	3	4	5
2. When I searched the corpus, I usually got the information that I needed.	1	2	3	4	5
3. I felt confident in using the corpus and the activity tasks after learning about them in the course.	1	2	3	4	5

4. I had some difficulty in using the corpus because	1	2	3	4	5
a) I didn't know what to search for.	1	2	3	4	5
b) I couldn't understand the output.	1	2	3	4	5
c) the real texts were too complex to understand.	1	2	3	4	5
d) the sentences in the concordance lines were incomplete.	1	2	3	4	5
e) there were too many concordance lines.	1	2	3	4	5
f) I couldn't understand the collocates diagram.	1	2	3	4	5
g) I couldn't understand the frequency breakdown diagram.	1	2	3	4	5
h) I couldn't understand the frequency distribution diagram.	1	2	3	4	5
i) I didn't know how to use the Part of Speech tags.	1	2	3	4	5
j) I didn't know how to use the wildcard function.	1	2	3	4	5
k) I didn't know how to search for phrases.	1	2	3	4	5
5. I found the following features useful:					
a) frequency breakdown.	1	2	3	4	5
b) frequency distribution for writing different sections (e.g. literature review, methodology) of my thesis.	1	2	3	4	5
c) displays of collocates before and after the search item.	1	2	3	4	5
d) real text examples.	1	2	3	4	5
e) the large number of examples.	1	2	3	4	5
f) the collocates diagram.	1	2	3	4	5
g) the frequency diagram.	1	2	3	4	5
h) the frequency distribution diagram.	1	2	3	4	5
i) the Part of Speech tags.	1	2	3	4	5
j) the wildcard function.	1	2	3	4	5
k) search for phrases.	1	2	3	4	5
6. The corpus is helpful for learning:					
a) the correct use of vocabulary.	1	2	3	4	5
b) the correct use of phrases.	1	2	3	4	5
c) good grammar.	1	2	3	4	5
d) thesis writing skills.	1	2	3	4	5
e) discipline-specific language.	1	2	3	4	5
f) how to write up my research.	1	2	3	4	5
7. By using the corpus					
a) my academic reading skills have improved.	1	2	3	4	5
b) my confidence in writing has increased.	1	2	3	4	5
c) my research writing has improved.	1	2	3	4	5
8. I will use a corpus to help me in thesis writing / writing about my research in the future.	1	2	3	4	5

9. Do you have any further comments on the corpus and/or the activity tasks?

Thank you for filling in the questionnaire. We are interested in knowing more about your views to help further improve the resource. Please leave your contact details if you are willing to participate in a focus group interview and which will be audio-recorded.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone no.: _____

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