



# ***Group Interaction in SBA: How Authentic is it?***



**Dr. Jasmine Luk**

## **Abstract:**

In recent years, the emphasis in L2 (second language) oral proficiency assessment has shifted from linguistic accuracy to discourse strategies such as the ability to initiate, respond and negotiate meaning. This has stimulated a growing interest in discourse analysis of students' performance in different types of oral proficiency assessments. The study reported in this paper represents an attempt to investigate students' discourse performance in L2 oral proficiency assessments conducted in the form of peer group interactions in Hong Kong. Drawing on frameworks for spoken discourse analysis, I analyzed the group interaction data from 43 female Hong Kong secondary students in 11 groups. Findings from a qualitative analysis of the students' interaction data supplemented with data from interviews with sampled students and the teacher, and a whole-class questionnaire survey reveal the emergence of a test-task specific genre featuring recurrent frames of talk for task management, content delivery and response giving. These frames were characterized by discourse features that seem to be ritualized, contrived and colluded. Such interaction practices suggest students' strong desire to maintain an impression of an effective interlocutor for scoring purposes more than for authentic communication. Implications for test construct validity and impacts on the students' L2 oral proficiency development will be discussed.

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**Jasmine Luk**

Jasmine Luk is an assistant professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Hong Kong. Her major research interests are related to teacher-student, and student-student interactions for second language teaching and learning. Her recent publications include a co-authored book with Dr Angel Lin entitled "Classroom Interactions as Cross-Cultural Encounters" and a chapter on "Classroom Discourse and the Construction of Learner and Teacher Identities" in Encyclopedia of Language and Education (second edition, Vol.3). She is currently involved in a Quality Education Fund project on "Promoting New Literacies in Hong Kong Schools."

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LG-06, Hui Oi Chow Science Building,  
The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road**

**All are welcome!**

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**Organised by the SBA Consultancy Team, Faculty of Education, HKU**