



SBA Seminar: Dynamic Assessment in Second Language Development

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Abstract:

The concept of dynamic assessment (DA) is grounded in Vygotsky's notion of the zone of proximal development. It argues that teaching and assessment form an integrated and unified activity whose goal is not only to uncover an individual's (or group's) ability, but also at the same time to promote development of that ability through appropriate forms of mediated interaction. Indeed, a full picture of development is not attainable without an understanding of how the current developmental level of learners can be projected into the future. In this presentation I will first discuss the theoretical foundation of DA and how it compares to more traditional approaches to assessment. I will then present data to illustrate the consequences of DA applied to second language (L2) development and argue that DA can be extended to both formative and summative assessment of learners.

James P. Lantolf is the George and Jane Greer Professor in Language Acquisition and Applied Linguistics in the Department of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies at the Pennsylvania State University. He is also Director of the Center for Language Acquisition and co-Director of CALPER (Center for Advanced Language Proficiency Education and Research).

He has published over one hundred books, edited volumes, journal articles, book chapters, encyclopedia articles and reviews. His most recent publications include *Sociocultural Theory and the Genesis of Second Language Development* (co-authored with S. L. Thorne), Oxford University Press, 2006; and *Sociocultural theory and L2 development: State-of-the-art*, *Studies in Second Language Acquisition*, March 2006.

29 May 2007 (Tuesday), 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Room LG01, Hui Oi Chow Science Building,
The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road
Chair: Dr Chris Davison

**All are welcome! Enquiries: Scarlet Poon; Tel: 2859 2395
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