# Doing Research Multilingually Seminar 2010

## 1 My Experience of Doing Research Bilingually

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#### 2 Questions:

- 1. Why did I conduct research in two languages?
- 2. How did I conduct research in two languages?
- 3. What methodological issues arose from doing research in my L1 and L2?

## 3 Why Two Languages?

· Participants: LETs and FETs in Taiwan (Chen, 2009)

#### 4 <a> Research Process</a>

- · Data collection: ethnographic interviewing
- · Data analysis: grounded theory approach
- Field languages: English (L2) and Mandarin (L1)

#### 5 5 Translation or Not?

## 6 Methodological Issues -1

- · When analyzing two sets of data transcripts in two languages:
  - Fuzziness and conceptual 'lacunas' of the data
  - · Challenges of conceptual contamination
  - · Maintaining conceptual distance (3 break times)
  - · Inter-coder reliability

## 7 Methodological Issues -2

- When writing up:
  - Which language? L1 or L2?
  - Do we present the data in the original languages? How?
  - Do we write conceptually or descriptively?

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- When conducting interviews in two languages:
  - Researcher's probing behavior in relation to power management

    - Language as a variable
      Native language interview (L1-L1) equal power
    - Non-native language interview (L2-L1) -unequal power