

**Course for Secondary School
Teachers on Teaching Mathematics
Education Key Learning Area in the
English Medium:
Sharing on Post-Lesson Support**



Ida Mok and Simon Chan
Faculty of Education
The University of Hong Kong

Nature of the Support

- One lesson chosen by the teacher to be observed by a university tutor
- Guidance provided for designing lesson plans in terms of achieving both content and language objectives
- Feedback provided for the specific lesson plan before the conduct of the lesson
- Tutor-teacher feedback conference conducted immediately after the lesson
- Feedback kept confidential

Observations by University Tutors

Strengths:

- Teachers' own competent use of the English language to fulfill the four major functions of questioning, giving instructions, explaining, and providing feedback
- Extensive attempts in and effective scaffolding (both content and language) provided for eliciting verbal responses from the students

Observations by University Tutors (Cont'd)

Strengths:

- Showing awareness of the language challenges posed by Math texts and word problems ([Example](#))
- Collaboration among colleagues within and across subject panels, thus achieving tailor-made LAC initiatives

Examples: F.1 bridging courses/LAC lessons taught by English and Math teachers in collaboration

Observations by University Tutors (Cont'd)

Teachers' Concerns:

- Time for language work within a Math lesson
- Teachers' own confidence in teaching language
- Role of the teacher (teaching Math Vs teaching language)

The way forward...

- LAC \neq Teaching English in Math lessons
- Strengthening Math teachers' language awareness
- Devising teaching strategies that are consistent to the school's MOI policy
- Catering for learner diversity
- Updating and enhancing Math teachers' pedagogical repertoire

Engaging ourselves with linguistic challenges in Mathematics texts

Use WORDS to express the operation involved in the following equation:

$$a^2 + (a + 2)^2 = 340$$

The sum of the squares of two consecutive positive even integers is 340.

(Description from a HK Math textbook)

