

Letter of Gratitude to Professor Michael Halliday
(have read to Mr & Mrs Neil Halliday on 23rd April 2018 after the funeral service)

Dear Michael,

I would express our deepest gratitude to you for your unfailing support to the Chinese Language Education at the Faculty of Education in the University of Hong Kong for the past two decades. You kindly acted as the External Examiner of our BEd (Chinese Language Education) Programme from 1998-2001 and provided valuable recommendations for the betterment of our programme. You were also the Distinguished Visiting Professor at our Faculty of Education in the academic year 2003-2004. You stationed in HKU the whole year and offered Systemic Functional Linguistics workshops to our teaching staff and research students who thanked you so much for your great teaching. Our previous Head of Department of Curriculum Studies Professor Nancy Law who is a scientist herself recalled that she benefitted greatly from your lectures on Systemic Functional Grammar, and got inspired of how language and scientific thinking co-evolve. She stressed that she learnt so much from you through witnessing your immense patience as a teacher and rigorous demand on yourself as a scholar.

Besides, we would also thank you deeply because you were the first international scholar who lent unfailing support to our Centre for Advancement of Chinese Language Education and Research (CACLER). As you know, CACLER developed from CMI Centre (Support Centre for Teachers Using Chinese as a Medium of Instruction) which was established in September 1998. You provided your great support by first delivering a wonderful keynote speech in pure Mandarin on the role of mother tongue in learning at the first conference of our centre. Then you also acted as a research consultant of various Chinese language education and genre research projects including 4 GRFs which are equivalent to ARC in Australia. You came regularly to HKU and provided valuable guidance to our research projects and publications. Our research centre owed you a lot!

Our colleagues and friends in HKU are very grateful to you and very sad to hear of the passing of such a great scholar and teacher. Our former Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Amy Tsui said you are the great scholar, mentor and friend. Our former Dean Professor Steve Andrew mentioned that you are truly a giant in our field, and your contribution to linguistics, education and scholarship will keep your memory

alive for generations to come. Our new Dean Professor Lin Goodwin said that you are clearly well loved by Faculty of Education colleagues who will long remember you for your contribution and thoughtful support. Professor Angel Lin expressed what a great master of the era you are and she can't think of another master like you in our time, with the kind of impact that you have in our field, in linguistics, applied linguistics and educational linguistics. Professor SK Tse said we lost a world academic leader and some said that it's just like a great light which has been switched off! Dr Wing-wah Ki said that your knowledge and personality have made immense impact on numerous people and he felt so fortunate to have learnt from you. Our recent Centre Director Dr Joseph Lam said he has been learning so much on language from you and will benefit from you in the future. He said our Centre has sent up a webpage to memorize you in our Centre website.

In summary, our HKU faculty staff are tremendously grateful to you for what you have done to us. Brendan (Weekes) and I are at your funeral service and are very sad to see you leave. You have been so kind to our HKU colleagues in all occasions. We will miss you and wish you eternal happiness and peace!

Mark (Shum), the University of Hong Kong