

Notes of the Second Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Time/ Date: 10am – 2pm, 2 February 2017

Location: DCAL Library (First Floor), UCL DCAL research centre, 49 Gordon Square, London. WC1H 0PD.

Apologies: Jonathan Gershuny, Núria Sebastián Gallés, Marianne Gullberg, Maggie Snowling, Teresa Tinsley, Nigel Vincent, and Michael Worton

Present: Steven Fawkes, David Green (DG), Tony McEnery, Pascale Vassie, Joseph Buckley (JB), Elizabeth Lanza, Richard Wiggins, and Michael Worton

Principle Investigators: Bencie Woll (BW), Li Wei (LW)

Introductions:

- Refresher and summary of project, and update on progress so far – BW
 - Summary of key findings
 - Findings of survey
 - ISBI I presentation and poster
 - Timetable for remainder of project
- BA conference and ancillary events – BW
 - Other dissemination activities and outputs
 - Strategy for convincing policy-makers of project recommendations and get them to act on findings
- Focus groups – LW
 - Who to include in focus groups
 - What particular issues need to be raised?

Notes

Grey literature

- Subjectivity of grey literature is problematic
 - Need to set limits on the amount and type of grey literature analysed to fit with our timeframe
 - Need to consult on best methods for searching grey literature
 - Write-up: the review of grey literature to be small, offering a summary – with guidelines – for future research
- Practitioner-type journals and blogs
 - Analysis will primarily focus on practitioner literature, print media and blogs – but not on e.g. Twitter
 - Blogs and forums influence people's opinions on how to approach language learning, and are used by both parents and professionals

Policy impact

We are interested to know how our research findings can be best put into practice and affect policy change, and is something we will investigate

- Joseph Buckley will be in contact regarding media training; the project directors will arrange to meet with him

Focus groups

- Results of the on-line questionnaire will be used to stimulate comments and discussion
- Who can assist us with identifying potential members of the groups
 - British Academy (Joseph Buckley)
 - Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)
 - Dominic Kingaby (civil servant)

Association for Language Learning (ALL) Potential contacts re dissemination and publicising research, and others

- Rosie Goldsmith (journalist)
- University communications teams
- Jean Coussins (APPG on Modern Languages) re. putting forward some questions in the Lords
- Students who are language learners
- Medical students

Panel Discussion – Research and policy questions related to the dissemination conference

- Costs versus benefits and opportunities of language learning. *How do people make choices/ decisions (cognitively speaking) to learn a language?*
- Investigate why the number of people learning languages at university is declining
 - Social class issue
 - Not enough language students go on to becoming teachers
 - Language teaching and instruction
- Children respond positively to people they admire speaking different languages
- Born Global: people want flexibility (cultural and professional)
 - Tied into identity
 - Influences future employment prospects
- Would new experiences/ ways of accessing languages be beneficial?

Next meeting: There was some discussion about whether we might hold the final AC meeting in association with the dissemination conference. This will be confirmed in the near future.