

THE DIGITAL RESHAPING OF ENGLISH INSTRUCTION IN A PHILIPPINE UNIVERSITY DURING THE PANDEMIC

Prof. MARILU R. MADRUNIO
Pia Patricia P. Tenedero, Ph.D.
Rachelle B. Lintao, Ph.D.

University of Santo Tomas – Manila, the Philippines

ABSTRACT

This paper examines the reshaping of the English curriculum in higher education in the Philippines during the COVID-19 pandemic. With lockdown protocols enforced in the capital region Metro Manila, formal education has shifted to digital format. In this study, we focus on the case of a top-ranked university in Manila, which has implemented a full-scale online conversion of course content and delivery beginning Academic Year 2020-2021. Focusing on the English language curriculum, we explore online teaching as a figured world, a realm that shapes and is shaped by discourses and artifacts co-constructed by characters in this new landscape (Holland, Lachicotte, Skinner, & Cain, 1998). This qualitative study presents the thematic analysis of institutional documents produced by policy makers and teachers that set the parameters for the digitization of English language units. The findings have implications for expanding epistemologies on the pandemic-induced, digital reconfiguration of higher education in Global South settings.

Keywords: figured world, English language curriculum, online education, COVID-19 pandemic



Prof. Madrunio is a full professor in the English Department of the Faculty of Arts and Letters of the University of Santo Tomas – Manila, Philippines where she currently serves as the Dean. She has a diploma in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) from the SEAMEO-Regional Language Centre in Singapore and a certificate course in Forensic Linguistics from the International Summer School in Forensic Linguistic Analysis (ISSFLA). She is the Chair of the Training Committee of the Foundation for Upgrading the Standard of Education (FUSE), the foundation of Dr. Lucio C. Tan. Her research interests are in the areas of ELT,

Sociolinguistics, Contrastive Rhetoric and Forensic Linguistics.

Pia Patricia P. Tenedero is an assistant professor in the Department of English, University of Santo Tomas (Philippines) and honorary postdoctoral associate in the Linguistics Department of Macquarie University (Australia). Her research has mostly focused on language learning, language ideology, and the sociolinguistics of communication practices in globalized contexts such as offshore accounting, Catholic missionary work, and higher education.



Rachelle Ballesteros-Lintao is a full professor and the incumbent Chair of the Department of English, University of Santo Tomas in Manila, the Philippines. Her research interests include forensic linguistics, language teaching and learning, and language and technology. She is the Country Representative of Clarity, an international plain language organization.