



Curtin University

*8th International Conference on TESOL:
ELT IN THE 21ST CENTURY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES*

Date: **Friday, Aug 11, 2017**

Time: **13:30-14:00**

Presenter/s: **Dr. PHAN Le Hai Ngan**

Bio:

Dr. PHAN Le Hai Ngan is now an English lecturer at Binh Dinh College, Vietnam. She obtained her master's degree in education at the university of Hawaii, the USA with the research focus on foreign and second language acquisition, and English teaching methodologies. She has recently completed her PhD. in English as an international language of School of Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics at Monash University, Australia. Her research is currently in the field of TESOL, TEFL TEIL and WE.

Email: plhngan@gmail.com

Title: **Challenges/Constraints in Teaching Today's English in Vietnam: Teachers' Voices**

Abstract:

English language teaching in the context of Vietnam has been strongly influenced by the 'native speaker' model or 'English speaking west' via communicative language approach employed since 1990s. With the globalization and internationalization of the English language and the emergence of newer varieties of English, however, there is a need to shift to teaching English as an international language (EIL). Although there has been an effort to reconsider the conventional practices of ELT in the world, this issue has not been evident in Vietnam and it is important for ELT in Vietnam to focus on the changing status of English to prepare learners for effective international communication. This empirical study investigated the possible challenges or constraints that Vietnamese ELT teachers mostly encounter in teaching English today. Data were collected from individual interviews with 21 teachers of English from secondary schools and university levels in different areas in Vietnam. The findings present a number of perceived challenges in teaching EIL such as teachers' limited capacity for teaching non-native varieties, exam-oriented curriculum, lack of supportive environment for English practice, limited teaching materials and facilities and other pressures that teachers have to endure in ELT in Vietnam. Based on the constraints, the paper suggests several potential pedagogical directions for ELT in Vietnam and in similar contexts.