Seminar on "Beyond Single Words: Exploring How We Measure English Collocational Knowledge"

Date: 23 May 2025 (Friday)
Time: 11:30-12:30
Venue: E33-2036, Faculty of Education
Language: English
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Speaker:
Chen DING is an Associate Professor at Hefei University of Technology. She holds a PhD from the Faculty of Education, University of Macau. Her research interests include second language vocabulary acquisition, extensive reading, and English for academic purposes. She has published over ten SSCI-indexed journal articles and currently leads a Ministry of Education-funded research project examining the mechanisms of multimodal input on incidental L2 vocabulary acquisition in academic contexts. She is also a principal co-investigator on a multi-year international collaborative project funded by the University of Macau, which explores multifaceted English collocational competence across diverse L1 backgrounds and L2 learning environments.

Abstract:
Collocational knowledge—knowing which words naturally go together—is a key component of second language vocabulary depth and an essential aspect of communicative competence. Yet, how we assess this knowledge remains complex and varied. This talk presents a systematic overview of how English collocational knowledge has been assessed in second language research over the past four decades. Based on a review of 153 empirical studies, it will introduce 16 distinct assessment tools targeting either receptive or productive collocation knowledge, highlight common challenges in test design, and explore implications for researchers, language teachers, and test developers. The talk will conclude with practical suggestions for refining future assessment practices and advancing research in this area.