



Appendix

Post #1 by 你呀媽係彈彈波

Translated version:	
1	Posting this for a friend.
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3	Actually, HKU being disconnected from reality is nothing new.
4	I've just never thought that MSW (Master of Social Work), a supposedly down-to-earth
5	programme, could be so fucking disconnected from reality.
6	HKU only focuses on professional writing and barely teaches students practical skills. You can
7	even say those skills are pathetically little. In the last semester, we only got 6 lessons for
8	practising counselling skills in the casework course (and we didn't get to do the practices in
9	every single one of these lessons).
10	
11	It's fine, that was just the first semester; we still get chances to practise.
12	Okay, so there's this group work in this semester, and we were asked to write a very
13	unrealistic group proposal, so unrealistic that we were even asked to explain why it had to be
14	done in the form of group work. I was like, come on, it was you who asked us to do this group
15	work; why do I have to explain it? Also, there're a ton of studies saying the topic we're doing
16	should better be done individually. How are you expecting me to explain it?
17	
18	Never mind. I take it as a chance to learn the theories behind; and in the future I may write
19	better proposals to get funding.
20	But still, I just want to write something more practical, something actually helpful to our
21	clients.
22	

23	Well, we all live in Hong Kong. We just want Hong Kong to be a better place, especially for
24	social workers, who are so down-to-earth.
25	Although there're a lot more English-speaking clients these days, in most cases, we use
26	Cantonese to communicate with our co-workers and clients. In this sense, I really think we
27	should use Cantonese, not English, for counselling [practice].
28	However, there're an ethnic minority (EM) student and a student from the mainland in our
29	class, making it impossible to use a down-to-earth language in group work practice.
30	
31	1. Although we're all university students whose English level's surely fine, has it occurred to
32	you that what we're doing is learning practical skills of a profession, but not chatting casually
33	or doing ordinary presentations?
34	If we're doing it in English, how can the vast majority of the students (99%) apply what
35	they've learnt in their job in the future? They're also not able to learn what they should
36	learn.
37	
38	2. Some students pointed out that the University states explicitly that the medium of
39	instruction is English, but this proved not to be the case, because in the previous few cohorts,
40	both Chinese and English were used in skill practice.
41	For us, we could use Cantonese in the casework [practice] in the last semester, and it went
42	fairly well. So what's wrong?
43	If we're sticking to this principle, why were there exceptional cases?
44	So, this argument doesn't stand.
45	
46	3. Some argued that this is discrimination.
47	They asked why there're only English and Cantonese for us to choose from, but not Hindi or

48	Mandarin.
49	If not using English in classes means discrimination, should we, the Cantonese speakers, learn
50	their mother languages to accommodate them?
51	Again, as a future social worker in Hong Kong, why are you not learning the local culture and
52	language, but expecting us locals to accommodate you?
53	Why are you morally blackmailing us here?
54	Why does/do the EM [student(s)] always feel like being discriminated against by us?
55	We really don't mean it like that.
56	We just want to learn better. You say you aren't learning well in Chinese, but indeed we're
57	not learning the skills well in English either.
58	Our primary focus is learning. Please don't morally blackmail all the time and play the race
59	card when any issue arises.
60	
61	4. Some said this involves equity and equality.
62	Some said using entirely Chinese or English is being fair, which I disagree with.
63	When it comes to equity, if we're all using English, it'll be really unfair to those with poor
64	Chinese [English], and a great advantage to those with fluent English.
65	So, does equity mean we're catering for people? Are all social workers expected to be
66	morally blackmailed like this?
67	
68	If you really have the heart to serve Hong Kong people as a frontline social worker, instead of
69	a senior clerk working for the government, I think you'd better not consider this university.
70	
71	There's no absolute fairness in this world, and I really don't understand why just the two

72	students are favoured over the vast majority. There're better solutions. Some students can
73	act as the clients in the practical skills assessment, and so we can all use our mother tongue.
74	
75	 Training of social workers should be down-to-earth.
76	 Shut up. Just use English. It's just that the post creator's English sucks.