

## **Enhancement of global elements in the course ENG2347: Words and their meanings**

Course lecturer: Dr MA, Qing

Through both lectures and tutorials, students have gained a basic understanding from the following perspectives:

- English is a hybrid language absorbing words and cultural elements from numerous countries and language communities historically and concurrently; similar experiences exist in respect of many other languages.
- Semantic concepts are culturally motivated; people from different cultures view things differently and have culturally-rooted exemplars for most concepts, something that is realised in the notion of “prototype”.
- Metaphor use is both universally and culturally shaped; apart from certain common metaphorical processes to be found in different languages, the variation and diversity in metaphor use due to the specific culture attached to the language make human language a rich and creative experience.
- In addition to the rather fixed meanings illustrated by *denotation*, many words have somewhat different associative meanings, i.e., *connotations*, which are shaped by both the individual speaker’s experience as well as the shared experience of a group who belong to a specific culture.