State Key Lab co-organized a lecture which was delivered by Professor Charles Perfetti, Director of the Learning Research and Development Center of University of Pittsburgh

"Lexical Quality: Word Experience and Reading Ability"
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Dr. Charles Perfetti,
Director, Learning Research and Development Center, University of Pittsburgh
Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh

Date and time: 4:30pm, Friday, 15 January, 2010
Location: Convocation Room, Main Building, HKU

Abstract:

Reading is an important means to acquire world knowledge. Without proper skills in reading and writing, children will be hampered in their educational outcomes, social-emotional development, and eventual quality of life. In this talk I review

behavioral and event-related potential (ERP) studies (mainly in English) related to the hypothesis that the quality of word representations affects reading comprehension as well as word reading (the Lexical Quality hypothesis). An implication is that variation in experience with written words produces variation in reading ability.

About the Speaker:

Dr Perfetti is University Professor and the Director of Learning Research and Development Center at the University of Pittsburgh, USA. He also serves as Chief Scientist of the Pittsburgh Science of Learning Center and Chair of the Commission on Reading Research for the National Institute for Literacy, USA. His central research interest is in the cognitive science of language and reading processes, including the nature of reading ability, the role of word recognition in comprehension, and the influence of writing systems in reading.

Dr Perfetti is the author, coauthor, or coeditor of seven books, among them Higher Level Language Processes in the Brain: Inference and Comprehension Processes (Lawrence Erlbaum, 2007), Text-based Learning and Reasoning: Studies in History (Lawrence Erlbaum, 1995), and Reading Ability (Oxford University Press, 1985). He also has written more than 150 professional journal articles and serves or has served on the editorial boards of a number of major peer-reviewed journals. Professor Perfetti received the Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award from the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading. He directs Learning Research and Development Center, a University-based multidisciplinary research center in its mission to study cognitive, neurocognitive, social and educational aspects of learning.