



Kent Chang's Learning Journey and Prof. Chung's Insights: Bridging Technology and Humanities Gaps, and Fostering Learning Environments

A Brief Introduction to Kent Chang

Due to his profound interest in literature, Kent pursued his studies at the National Taiwan University, majoring in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature. During his undergraduate years, he is also self-taught to acquire knowledge in computer science. Subsequently, he pursued an MS in Digital Humanities at University College London, known for hosting one of the world's premier Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

Later, Kent was recommended to work under the guidance of Prof. David Bamman, with whom he conducted research in natural language processing and cultural analytics while pursuing his Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley.

Bridging the Gaps

Kent never underestimated himself despite being a student in Social Sciences track. This determination led him to pursue further studies in a technology-related department. During the initial two years of studying abroad, as he learned alongside peers from STEM backgrounds and prestigious institutions, he felt the gap in their

respective knowledge bases. Nevertheless, he didn't give up. Instead, he invested more effort than his peers to fill the gaps, and seeking out the necessary learning resources. As Prof. Chung noted, in this era, you have all the learning material you need online!

Kent generously shared numerous aspects of his research with us, including his endeavors in training AI to articulate colors, aiming to enhance the understanding of colors and the world for visually impaired individuals. He also delved into using AI to detect the emotions of characters in novels.

Personally, I have an interest in the field of educational technology. Kent recommended that I explore training new AI models, and he shared some online resources, including "Artificial Intelligence for Africa," which is relevant to my interest in rural education. Additionally, Prof. Chung encourage me to seek out a team in this field.

Up to this point, readers might notice that I haven't delved deeply into the specific research Kent is currently undertaking. One reason is that I find it a bit challenging to keep up with Kent's pace, and at times, I struggle to comprehend certain technical terms. This realization offers me two insights—firstly, I definitely need to improve my English listening skills, especially in keeping up with transcription practice! Kent has a lot of information to share, and missing any part of it due to my limited English listening ability would be a significant loss. Secondly, I should allocate more time to keep up with technological trends. While I make an effort to follow technology news, it's clear that it's not sufficient!

Prof. Chung's Efforts

Prof. Chung mentioned that she has taught many intelligent students who has great ideas. However, due to limited proficiency in speaking English, people often "judge a book by its cover," equating weak English oral expression with a lack of substance. She feels regret for those students. I believe that this is a significant reason why Prof. Chung initiated the English Listening and Pronunciation class.

I was surprised to learn that Prof. Chung dedicates 10 hours each week to lesson preparation. She is an experienced teacher, so I didn't expect her willingness to invest so many time preparing for classes. Prof. Chung explained that she makes efforts to update teaching content, prepare in-class quizzes, and personally grade assignments. Sensing her passion for teaching, I feel fortunate to be a student under Prof. Chung's guidance.

Prof. Chung also shared her observations from her teaching career, noting that students tend to be quiet in class. She didn't blame students, recognizing that the real issue lies in the educational system and the exam-oriented culture in Asia. Teachers often rush through course materials to meet curriculum deadlines, leading to perfunctory responses to students' questions. Thus, when students enter university, they are used to quietly absorbing course content.

This situation sometimes causes teachers to underestimate students due to their silence. Therefore, Prof. Chung has consistently worked towards creating an open and safe environment for students to express themselves and ask questions. I can sense this supportive atmosphere in the classroom.

Prof. Chung's words to students in the ELP class

"When I see them sitting in the classroom, I often think: they are the future of Taiwan!" Prof. Chung carried a proud smile as she spoke these words. "I've truly got the best students. I can tell that they are intelligent and hardworking." At that moment, I felt that having a teacher who believes so strongly in her students' capabilities and offers encouragement is truly valuable. It can really uplifts and motivates students.



We've discussed some other topics, such as the filter bubble in social media platforms and music streaming platforms. We also talked about the fact that Chat-GPT cannot replace the warmth of human nature, which is mentioned in class. If anyone is interested in more details, feel free to ask me after class.