Background on the development of the Phrase Bank System

Reviewing the current picture-based Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) systems in Hong Kong, most of them are designed for the needs of preschool and school-aged children with complex communication needs (CCN). The availability of ready-made AAC systems for adults with CCN are limited.

As we all know, adults with CNN have needs that are completely different from those of preschool and school-aged children. They use language in very different communication contexts. To fill this gap, there should be another AAC system that is user friendly and comprehensive to adults with CNN.

Phrase Bank System is developed with reference to the language samples of adults with CCN. Its content includes messages useful for their daily life and conversation in different social occasions.

Our mission in the development of a Phrase Bank System is to address the needs of the adults with CCN appropriately. We hope that people with CCN can achieve good quality of life by broadening their social circles and increasing their participation in different social activities with efficient communication.

Phrase Bank System

- AAC items are categorized by different scenes
  - (e.g. workshop and hostel, church, funeral, TV drama, etc.)

- Included phrases commonly used within the scenes;
  - Church→ People→ Priest;
  - Church→ Seek for help→ "I have(not) been baptized. I can(not) receive Communion"
  - Church→ Social Phrases→ " I am _____. I have been to church for ____ year"

- Phrases ideas come from clients, caregivers, and therapists

- Phrases can be put into the communication book or communication board or tablet

- The content and complexity of the phrases could be tailor-made depending on the individual needs

The flow for daily application

1. The client/caregiver anticipates the social occasion that they will encounter
2. The caregiver discuss the content of phrases that the client wish to include and input the phrases into their AAC.
3. The client only takes the pages required for that social occasion with him for quicker access

Usage in a tablet

Microsoft Excel - AAC High Tech_data bank_2012

主題詞彙	社交用語	請求幫忙	其他用語/問題	舊約	新約	節日				
我	我要用溝通簿，請你比少少時間我	唔該幫我攞聖經、或詩歌書		創世記	馬太福音	元旦				
牧師	我叫…返教會有…	多謝，唔需要幫我揭書，我用心聽就夠了		出埃及記	馬可福音	農曆新年				
傳道人	歡迎你到教會	請為我代禱…		利未記	路加福音	元宵				
導師	你有冇參加崇拜、團契、主日學、慕道班呀？	請為我的家人代禱		民數記	約翰福音	情人節				
組長	最近有甚麼活動？	幫我找…詩歌(Youtube)		申命記	使徒行傳	三八婦女節				
主日學導師	點稱呼你呀	我已洗禮，可以領聖餐		約書亞記	羅馬書	復活節				
團契職員	我想唱…	我未洗禮，不用領聖餐		十師	哥林多前	清明				

參加婚宴　喪禮　教會及社交　工場和宿舍　身體　功能詞　人物及姓氏　形容詞　日常情況　時態_天氣　外出用膳　敍舊　探朋友-家　探朋友-生BB　探朋友-入醫院_病

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Usage in a page of communication book

婚宴

人物	社交用語	請求幫忙	其他用語/問題
新娘	好耐冇見	請問洗手間喺邊	你識男家定女家
新郎	你近來點呀	請問我可以坐邊度	點稱呼你呀
伴娘	保重啦	請問呢個位有冇人坐	最近有冇見呀邊個
伴郎	我係女家親戚	可唔可以幫我哋影幅相	你係邊度做嘢
老爺/奶奶	祝你哋新婚愉快	可唔可以 Whatsapp 畀我	做邊行

When compared to traditional AAC…

- **Pros:**
  - ➢ Faster access to the required phrases in particular scene
    - In a phrase form
    - Require no flipping of pages
  - ➢ Can update frequently
    - The page could be updated/ tailor-made into different scenes
  - ➢ Handy and portable
- **Cons:**
  - ➢ Require certain literacy ability
  - ➢ Cannot include all the words and situations that cater all the users' needs