WHAT IS MISSING IN THE JIGSAW PUZZLE?
(AN EXAMINATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING OF HONG KONG
TEACHERS AND THEIR PERCEPTION OF COMMUNICATIVE LANGUAGE
TEACHING)

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Abstract

This paper aims at investigating the professional training of Hong Kong teachers and the correlations between teacher training and the failure of communicative language teaching. Sets of questionnaires were distributed to 150 teachers and 101 of them returned their completed questionnaires. Respondents included untrained and trained teachers as well as those with minimal training. Questions were related to the participants' academic background, professional background, teaching experience, their concept of communicative language teaching, their opinions of communicative language teaching and the most common activities they used in the classroom. By analysing the collected data, the study shows that the failure of communicative language teaching is due to the inadequate training of teachers. Further teaching training courses for both untrained and trained teachers are therefore recommended to upgrade their professional qualifications.