

## **Responding to Sentence Level Problems of Multilingual Writers—Principles and Practices**

### *Some general principles*

- Help multilingual writers take charge of correctness on their own rather than simply line-editing their work.
- When possible, work on sentence level issues face-to-face.

### *Some best practices*

- Ask multilingual writers what type of help is most useful to them.
- Read the entire text for the gist before marking the text. Re-read the text, noting sections that were surprising. Explain your responses in conversation.
- Be prepared to help students with the six most common error types in ESL compositions: subject/verb agreement, verb tense, verb form, singular/plural noun endings, word form, and sentence structure.
- Have a shortlist of additional resources (such as style guides and websites), and refer students to peer tutors or Sweetland Center for Writing.