

Education

2022 – PhD Linguistics (Psycholinguistics), University College London

Project: Factors and mechanisms in prediction during language comprehension (Supervisor: Dr. Wing-Yee Chow)

2018 – 2019 MSc Language Sciences, University College London

Thesis: Tone information in the prediction in online language processing in Chinese (Supervisor: Dr. Wing-Yee Chow)

2014 – 2018 Bachelor's Degree in French, Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU)**2016 – 2017 Exchange programme with BFSU, Translation, Université Catholique de Lyon, France**

Research Projects

The role of Mandarin Chinese tone sandhi in prediction during language comprehension

Human comprehenders make predictions about upcoming languages on the fly. Research has shown that listeners can use a wide range of linguistic or non-linguistic cues to predict during comprehension. In this project, I use behavioural and eye-tracking methods, to investigate the role of Mandarin Chinese tone sandhi (the T3 sandhi, the yi sandhi) in prediction during language comprehension, particularly as an input to prediction.

Comprehenders' strategic control in prediction during language comprehension

A large number of studies have shown that comprehenders routinely predict during language comprehension. However, realistic language input is highly versatile and comprehenders' predictions can often turn out to be wrong. Prediction errors can be costly in a few different ways, hindering language comprehension. In this project, I investigate to what extent prediction during language comprehension may be under the comprehender's control; in other words, whether comprehenders can inhibit their predictions when their task strongly disfavours prediction.

Publications

Huo, Y. & Chow, W.Y. (preprint) Listeners do not use tone sandhi in numerals to predict nouns: an eye-tracking study.

Huo, Y. & Chow, W.Y. (in prep) Prediction during language comprehension may be under strategic control: evidence from eye movements.

Talks and Conference Presentations

Huo, Y. (2023) Limited involvement of Mandarin Chinese tone sandhi in prediction during language comprehension. Talk at the Symposium: Tone and prediction in language. 17 Nov. 2023, Lund University, Lund, Sweden.

Huo, Y., Lan, X., Yuan, X., & Chow, W.Y. (2024) Prediction during language comprehension may be under strategic control: evidence from eye movements. Poster presented at AMLaP 2024 - Architectures and Mechanisms of Language Processing 2024, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK.

Chen, K., **Huo, Y.**, Xu, J., Wang, Z., Xia, F., & Chow, W.Y. (2024) Co-registration of mouse cursor and eye movements reveals comparable sensitivity of mouse and eye-tracking to prediction during language comprehension. Poster presented at AMLaP 2024 - Architectures and Mechanisms of Language Processing 2024, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK.

Huo, Y., & Chow, W.Y. (2024) Gap between comprehenders' linguistic knowledge and their ability to make predictions: evidence from Mandarin Chinese tone sandhi. Poster presented at LingO 2024: Oxford Postgraduate Conference in Linguistics, Jesus College, Oxford, UK.

Huo, Y., Hsu, Y.C., & Chow, W.Y. (2024) Limited impact of phonological information on listeners' expectations: sentence completion evidence from Mandarin Chinese tone sandhi. Poster presented at HSP 2024: 37th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA.

Chen, K., **Huo, Y.**, Xu, J., Wang, Z., Xia, F., & Chow, W.Y. (2024) Co-registration of mouse cursor and eye movements reveals comparable sensitivity of mouse and eye-tracking to prediction during language comprehension. Poster presented at HSP 2024: 37th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA.

Huo, Y., Wang, S., & Chow, W.Y. (2023) Task modulates predictive behaviour in constraining context: Eye-tracking evidence from a prediction error study. Poster presented at LingCologne2023: Prediction in Language, University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany.

Huo, Y., Wang, S., & Chow, W.Y. (2023) Do listeners detect prediction errors in lexical tone? An investigation with tone sandhi in Mandarin Chinese shows unexpected prediction inhibition. Poster presented at the 36th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing, University of Pittsburgh, PA, USA.

Huo, Y. & Chow, W.Y. (2022) An investigation into listeners' selective failure to use phonological knowledge in language prediction. Poster presented at the Architectures and Mechanisms of Language Processing (AMLaP) 2022, University of York, York, UK.

Huo, Y. & Chow, W.Y. (2022) An investigation into listener's selective failure to use phonological knowledge in language prediction. Poster presented at the 35th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing, University of California Santa Cruz, CA, USA.

Chow, W.Y., & **Huo, Y.** (2020) Listeners can use tone information to predict: Evidence from Mandarin Chinese. Poster presented at the 33rd annual CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference, University of Massachusetts Amherst, MA, USA.

Awards

Scholarships/Studentships:

2020 China Scholarship Council Research Excellence Scholarship, University of Cardiff, Cardiff, UK.

2016 First degree studentship, Beijing Foreign Studies University

2015 Second degree studentship, Beijing Foreign Studies University

Other:

2024 Best student poster award, AMLaP 2024 - Architectures and Mechanisms of Language Processing 2024, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK.

2022 PALS Conference Fund, University College London, London, UK.

Work Experience

2019 – 2020 Research Assistant, Speech, Language, and Neuroscience Group, East China Normal University
Responsibilities: Assist the Principle Investigator in data collection, data analysis; writing academic reports and ethics applications. Organise social events for lab members.

2015 – 2022 Tutor/Private teacher

Teaching Project Organisation

2024-2025 UCL Linguistics Short Courses 2024, **Organiser**

Responsibilities: Coordinate with instructors on course curriculum and content, handle enrollment and course promotion, create and manage the course website, and coordinate the scheduling and location of courses.

2023-2024 UCL Linguistics Autumn School 2023, **Co-organiser**

Responsibilities: Create and manage the course website, assist the organiser in coordinating course schedules and locations, promote the course, and communicate with students via email.

Teaching

Lecturer:

University College London:

2024-2025 The Eye-tracking Method and its Application in Language Research, UCL Linguistics Short Courses 2024

2023-2024 Introduction to the Eye-tracking Method and its Application in Language Research, UCL Linguistics Autumn School 2023

2023-2024 PLINSTAT Introduction to Statistics for Linguists using R

2021-2022 PLINSTAT Introduction to Statistics for Linguists using R

Beijing Foreign Studies University:

2017-2018 French as a second foreign language, the Department of Chinese Language and Literature

Teaching Assistant:

Division of Psychology and Language Sciences, UCL:

2024-2025 PALS0001 Introduction to the Brain and Imaging the Brain

2023-2024 PALS0001 Introduction to the Brain and Imaging the Brain

Department of Linguistics, UCL:

2024-2025 PLIN0033 Psycholinguistics: General Processing

2023-2024 PLIN0033 Psycholinguistics: General Processing

2023-2024 PLIN0038 Neurolinguistics

2022-2023 PLIN0038 Neurolinguistics

Skills and Certificates

IT:

Data analysis: Frequentist and Bayesian data analysis based on R (lme4, brms) and Python (pandas)

Programming: Software programming based on Python (pygame, PsychoPy) and JavaScript (JsPsych)

Web development: HTML/CSS/Markdown

Languages:

Mandarin Chinese (native language)

English (IELTS 8.5, L9 R9 W8 S8)

French (DALF C1)

Japanese (JLPT N1)

Student (Co-)supervision

I assisted my supervisor in overseeing undergraduate/postgraduate student projects. My responsibilities included assigning research topics, organising discussions, designing experiments, training students in data collection and data analysis, supervising thesis writing, etc. Projects include:

Tong Li (MSc, 2023 – 2024): The mass/count distinction in language prediction in English – an EEG study

Xuechen Lan & Xiang Yuan (MA, 2023 – 2024): Task effects in language prediction

Effie Lu & Yiming Ning (MA, 2023 – 2024): The effect of Mandarin Chinese tone sandhi on word predictability

Yi-Chen Hsu (MA, 2022 – 2023): The effect of Mandarin Chinese tone sandhi on word predictability

Ruo Chen Fan, Youyang Huang, & Weiyue Zhang (BSc, 2024 – 2025): Comprehenders' usage of different predictive cues in language prediction

Naz Kabalak & Ruoning Meng (BSc, 2022 – 2023): The role of Mandarin Chinese tone sandhi in prediction during language comprehension