Curriculum Vitae

Research Interests

Language Acquisition, Language Processing, Multilingualism, Heritage Language, Semantics, Perception, Production, Cognition

Education

University of Southern California (USC)

2024 - Present Ph.D. Linguistics

The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

2023 **B.A. Linguistics and Psychology, Minor in Comparative Literature**

Honors Thesis 1: Acquisition of English Reflexive Pronouns: Evidence from

Naturalistic Observation

Advisor: Catherine M. Sandhofer

Honors Thesis 2: Unveiling the Parallel Function Hypothesis on Personal

Pronouns: A Corpus Analysis Utilizing Eye-Tracking Data

Advisor: Jesse Harris

Summer School

2023	/L+/ International Summer / Winter School on Language Acquisition, University
	of Potsdam, Online

Scholarship and Awards

2022	UCLA/Keck Humanistic Inquiry Undergraduate Research Award (Keck)
2023	Rose Gilbert in Memory of Maggie Gilbert Scholarship
2023	UCLA College of Letters and Science College Honors
2023	UCLA Linguistics Department Honors
2023	UCLA College of Letters and Science Latin Honors: Cum Laude

Journal Publications

- 1. Fuchs, Z., Kealey, E., Eldem, E., Mermelstein, L., Pham, L., Runova, A., Chen, Y., Oguz, M., Hong, S., Pan, C., Subramony, J., (under review). Predicting facilitative processing of gender in Heritage Spanish using measures of lexical proficiency. In O. Ivanova & Ó. Loureda (Eds.), Language Processing in Spanish Heritage Speakers [Special issue]. Languages.
- 2. Mai, Z., Wong, P.C.M., Matthews, S., Yip, V., Liao, H., Nie, J., **Chen, Y**. (under review). Zhuang-Mandarin bilingual children in rural China and the role of grandparental input in early bilingualism. PLOS One.

Curriculum Vitae

3. **Chen, Y.**, Neer, E., Zhang, E., Sandhofer, C.M., (2024). Acquisition of English Reflexive Pronouns: Evidence from Naturalistic Observation. UCLA Undergraduate Psychology Journal, 11(1), 6-16.

Conference Proceedings

Chen, Y., Mai, Z., Shang, M., (forthcoming). Cross-Linguistic Influence and Developmental Patterns in Reflexive Pronoun Use Among Monolingual, Bilingual, and Trilingual Children. In Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (Vol. 47).

Selected Conference Presentations and Posters

Chen, Y., Mai, Z., Shang, M., (2025, July). Cross-Linguistic Influence and Developmental Patterns in Reflexive Pronoun Use Among Monolingual, Bilingual, and Trilingual Children. [Poster] CogSci 2025, San Francisco, CA.

Fuchs, Z., Kealey, E., Eldem, E., Mermelstein, L., Pham, L., Runova, A., Hong, S., Oguz, M., Chen, Y., Pan, C., Subramony, J., (2025, June). Predicting facilitative processing of gender in Heritage Spanish using measures of lexical proficiency. 16th Heritage Language Research Institute (HLRI), [Poster] Madison, WI.

Chen, Y., Mai, Z., Chen, Y., (2024, November). Employing Machine Learning and Language Models to Differentiate Language Patterns in Mandarin-Speaking Preschoolers with Autism Spectrum Disorder. [**Poster**] California Meeting on Psycholinguistics 7 (CAMP7), San Diego, CA.

Chen, Y., Su, Y., (2024, November). Exploring Reflexive Pronoun Development and Usage in Mandarin-Learning Toddlers: A Comparative Study of ASD and TD Groups. [**Poster**] California Meeting on Psycholinguistics 7 (CAMP7), San Diego, CA.

Chen, Y., Mai, Z., Hu, X., Shang, M., (2024, July). *Reflexive pronouns in Chinese-learning monolingual, bilingual, and trilingual toddlers, and their parental input.* [**Poster**] Child Language Symposium 2024, Newcastle, UK.

Chen, Y. (2024, May). Unveiling the Parallel Function Hypothesis on Personal Pronouns: A Corpus Analysis Utilizing Eye-Tracking Data. [Poster] The 11th Conference on Language, Discourse, and Cognition, Taipei, Taiwan.

Chen, Y. (2023, February). Acquisition of English Reflexive Pronouns: Evidence from Naturalistic Observation. [Poster], 22nd Meeting of the Texas Linguistics Society, Austin, TX.

Working Manuscript

- Predictive Modeling of Diagnostic Outcomes for Mandarin-Learning Toddlers W\ith and Without Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Parental Input of the Chinese Bare Reflexive Pronoun 'ziji' and Its Impact on Children's Reflexive Understanding: An Analysis of Prosody Focus on Language Acquisition
- Exploring the Role of Child and Parental Disfluencies in Early Vocabulary Development: A Corpus-Based Analysis

Work Experiences

Curriculum Vitae

2023 - 2024 Linguistics Research Assistant for Professor Maggie Mai from CUHK

Involved in multiple research projects, including modeling, CHILDES corpus building, early multilingual development and heritage language acquisition and processing, responsible for literature review, manuscript preparation, coordination between different laboratories and academics, transcription using CLAN and CHAT, and data collection.

Lab Experiences

2021- 2023 Language Processing Lab

Involved in phonetics stimulus creation by using Praat, in charge of data organization, running eye-tracking, pupillometry, self-paced reading, and reading reaction experiments both in person and online.

Principal Investigator: Jesse Harris

2021- 2023 Language and Cognition Development Lab

Involved in Research design, in charge of critical thinking and methodology development for social cue projects, data (behavior) coding, lexicon building for each transcript, utterance by utterance transcription of each video by using CLAN, data organization, data analysis, creating RA manuals, new RA-training, and literature review of articles related to social cues and parent-child interactions.

Principal Investigator: Catherine M. Sandhofer

Ph.D. Student Supervisors: Emily Neer and Erjing Zhang

Summer 2022 Language Acquisition Lab

In charge of subject scheduling and recruitment, organizing timeslot, and helping run in-person infant preferential-looking paradigm experiments.

Principal Investigator: Megha Sundara and Laurel Perkins

Public and University Events

Winter 2023 Invited Presenter, Bruin Day for Admitted Transfers, UCLA

A presentation about my current honors thesis, discuss my previous research journey as an undergraduate with a Q&A session on how to conduct research and find resources as an undergraduate student at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Academic Service

Reviewer: California Meeting on Psycholinguistics (CAMP7), 27th Proceedings of the Southern Association for Information Systems Conference, CogSci 2025, AMCIS 2025

----- Volunteer

Curriculum Vitae

UCLA Undergraduate Research Peer Mentor Child Rescue Organization - China (Non-Profit) Exploring Your Universe (EYU) - UCLA Psychology Department

——— Skills

Language: Mandarin Chinese (Native), Wu Chinese (Native), English, Spanish, Italian

Programming skills: C++/C, Python, R

Data presentation and analysis: SPSS, MATLAB, LaTeX, Praat, ELAN, CLAN, Qualtrics,

SynthWorks, Rezonator, PCIbex

—— Certificate

2023 - 2025 CPR – Adult / Pediatrics / First-Aid Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

——— Other Services and Memberships

Present Member of the Linguistics Society of America

Present Cognitive Science Society