
Shuya Chen

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EDUCATION

University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

09/2021-10/2022

MSc in Developmental Linguistics (Average grade: 75%)

Core Courses: *First Language Acquisition (81%), Research Methods in Developmental Linguistics (77%), Disorders of language functions (75%), Language Production (74%), Online experiments for Language Scientists (74%), Univariate Statistics and Methodology using R (73%), Second Language Acquisition (70%).*

Shandong University, Weihai, China

09/2017-06/2021

BA in International Education of Chinese (Average grade: 87%)

Core Courses: *Applied Linguistics (88%), Introduction to Linguistics (92%), Phonology (93%), Sociolinguistics (91%).*

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Current research interests

- First and second language acquisition; child bilingualism; heritage speaker; psycholinguistics; discourse-syntax interface; pronoun resolution

Past research interests

- Language contact and variation; regional Mandarin; nasal codas merging; sociolinguistic

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Anaphora resolution in Mandarin-speaking child heritage speakers

5/2022-8/2022

MSc dissertation (82%)

Advisor: Dr Vicky Chondrogianni

- Examined the Interface Hypothesis by exploring the acquisition of anaphora resolution in Mandarin-speaking child heritage speakers living in English-speaking countries.
- Designed a Picture Verification Task using jsPsych containing context providing short stories and pictures.
- Observed significant divergence between the heritage children and their monolingual peers on their resolutions of backward anaphora with overt pronouns as well as null pronouns, partly supporting the prediction of the IH.

Syntactic categories in speech productions of young children. The case of determiner. **11/2021**

Course project of First Language Acquisition (74%)

Advisor: Dr Vicky Chondrogianni

- Explored the acquisition of syntactic categories in young children by comparing the usage of [determiner + noun] and [determiner + x + noun] between young children and their caregivers.
- Obtained annotated speech data from CHILDES English Howe corpus; calculated overlap score for each speaker (i.e., the number of nouns appearing with both 'a' and 'the' divided by the number of nouns used with either 'a' or 'the') using Python and R; included controlling methods of word frequency and sample size differences in the speech of adult and children.

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- Found no significant differences between young children and adults in controlled analyses of their usage of the syntactic category of determiner, supporting the nativist theory that children have abstract categories from the beginning of combinatorial speech.

Mergers of Nasal Codas in Guangzhou Mandarin

2/2021-6/2021

BA dissertation (95%)

Advisor: Professor Qian Liu

- Explored the potential reasons for nasal codas merging in regional Mandarin by examining the articulation and perception of nasal codas in Guangzhou Mandarin speakers.
- Designed near-synonyms identification task, passage reading task, minimal pairs reading task and perception tasks to examine the pronunciation and perception of nasal codas after different vowels in different speech styles.
- Annotated 3524 tokens with target nasal codas using praat; analysed data using proportional and exponential scoring.
- Argued that the merging of nasal codas in Guangzhou Mandarin is the result of the regional marking of the north and south, perceptual salience of different vowel-coda combinations, and the lack of transfer awareness of speakers.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

Bytedance

05/2021-08/2021

Internship in English Linguistics, AI-Lab

- Studied the pronunciation of English first/second language learners in terms of phonemes, rhythm and other dimensions; developed annotation rules for the training and test data of the intelligent pronunciation assessment algorithm.
- Trained junior annotators according to the rules and conducted praat annotation tutorials and daily Q&A sections; data quality control, writing python scripts to optimize the process.
- Wrote data delivery documents and provided advice based on data analysis results.
- Conducted project schedule management, prioritising manpower according to project priorities.

Kugou Music (Tencent)

04/2021-05/2021

Internship in Intelligent Technology Department

- Participated in TTS project speech data annotation and evaluation, including audio cutting, rhyme level annotation and pinyin transcription proofreading.

ACADEMIC SKILLS

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- Research Methods, Statistics
 - Programming: jsPsych, R, Praat, Python
 - Markup: Rmarkdown
 - Corpus: CLAN

LANGUAGES

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- Mandarin – native
 - Cantonese – native
 - Teochew - native
 - English – C1