YAJUN LIU

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EDUCATION

PhD student in Linguistics and English Language

09/2021-08/2025

School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences, University of Edinburgh

MSc in Developmental Linguistics (Distinction)

09/2019-08/2020

School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences, University of Edinburgh

Master of Interpreting and Translation

09/2016-06/2018

School of Foreign Languages, Soochow University

Bachelor of Arts in English Education

09/2012-06/2016

School of Foreign Languages, Henan University

PUBLICATIONS

- Liu, Y., Sorace, A., Smith, K. (Under Review). Mandarin bilingual speakers undergoing attrition produce more explicit referring expressions.
- Liu, Y., Sorace, A., Smith, K. (Under Review). Beyond crosslinguistic influence: Mandarin Speakers with Exposure to null-subject languages nonetheless use fewer null pronouns in Mandarin.
- Liu, Y., Sorace, A., Smith, K. (Under Review). Do bilinguals avoid ambiguity? An experimental study of lexical ambiguity in spoken Mandarin.

WORK EXPERIENCES

SELECTED TALKS & POSTERS

Co-supervisor with Professor Kenny Smith Master's dissertation project in Evolution of Language & Cognition	03/2024 - 08/2024
Research Assistant	
Learning and Teaching Mandarin in Scotland Project	11/2022 - 12/2023
Tutoring and Marking	
Current Simulating Language	01/2025 - 05/2025
Completed	00/2024 12/2024
Online Experiments for Language Scientists Introduction to Cognitive Science	09/2024 - 12/2024 09/2024 - 12/2024
Data Analysis for Psychology in R 2	09/2022 - 05/2023

Liu, Y., Sorace, A. & Smith, K. Beyond crosslinguistic influence: Mandarin Speakers with Exposure to null-subject languages nonetheless use fewer null pronouns in Mandarin. Accepted as a talk to be presented at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, San Francisco, US, July to August 2025.

- Liu, Y., Sorace, A. & Smith, K. Mandarin speakers undergoing attrition produce more explicit referring expressions. Poster presented at the Human Sentence Processing, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, US, May 2024.
 - Liu, Y., Sorace, A. & Smith, K. Mandarin speakers undergoing attrition produce more explicit referring expressions. Poster presented at the 79th Language Lunch, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK, April 2024 (Best Poster award).
 - Liu, Y., Sorace, A. & Smith, K. (2024). Mandarin speakers undergoing attrition produce more explicit referring expressions: More evidence from bilingual speakers who can speak two pro-drop languages. Talk at Centre for Language Evolution, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK, April 2024
 - Liu, Y., Sorace, A. & Smith, K. Comprehension and production don't align: Evidence from referential forms in Mandarin Chinese. Poster presented at the Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP), San Sebastian, Spain, September 2023
- Liu, Y., Luo, Q., Sorace, A. & Smith, K. Exploring the role of communicative interaction in L1 attrition: Evidence from null and overt subjects in an artificial language. Poster presented at Bilingualism Matters Research Symposium, Edinburgh, UK, October 2022.
- Liu, Y. (2021). From individual to generational attrition: Language change through communicative interaction. Talk at the Bilingualism Research Group, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK, October 2021.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Wiki Admin of Centre for Language Evolution

University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

05/2024 – present

Volunteer of the 30th Architecture and Mechanisms of Language Processing

University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

01/2024 - 09/2024

Co-organiser of the Annual Retreat Trip of Centre for Language Evolution

University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK 05/2023 – 05/2024

Co-organiser of Bilingualism & Developmental Linguistics Research GroupUniversity of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK
01/2022 – 09/2022

Chair of Bilingualism Research Group

University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

09/2022 - 09/2023

Deputy Chair of the 29th Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK 09/2022 – 06/2023

Plenaries & Workshops Coordinator of the 28th Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference

University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

09/2021 - 06/2022