Yuqing Zhang (张宇晴)

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Personal Information

Postal Address: 15 Xueyuan Road, Haidian District, Beijing, China

Postal code: 100083   Date of Birth: 1997.03.04

Place of Birth: Lvliang County, Shanxi Province, China

Education

2019 - Present **M.A. in Language Intelligence and Technology**

Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU), Beijing, China

Thesis: Communicative Efficiency Modulates Relationships between Perceptual Distinctiveness, Articulatory Complexity and Functional Load

Side Project: Discourse Prosody Encoding in Spontaneous Narratives

2015 - 2019 **B.A. in English Language and Literature**

Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU), Beijing, China

Thesis: Comparison of pitch profiles in L1 and L2 Mandarin: An acoustic analysis of the accented Mandarin prosody (Excellent Graduation Thesis)

Research Interests

Broad   Computational Modeling of Human Language, Language Evolution

Narrow   Computational Modeling of the Phonemic Systems, Language Emergence of Humans and Deep Neural Agents

Publications

Conference Proceedings

Yuqing Zhang, Zhu Li, and Jinsong Zhang. "Towards the Use of Pretrained Language Model GPT-2 for Testing the Hypothesis of Communicative Efficiency in the Lexicon." In: *International Conference on Asian Language Processing* (December 2021). [pdf]

Yuqing Zhang, Zhu Li, Bin Wu, Yanlu Xie, Binghuai Lin, and Jinsong Zhang. "Relationships Between Perceptual Distinctiveness, Articulatory Complexity and Functional Load in Speech Communication." In: *Proceedings of Interspeech* (2021), pp. 1733–1737. [doi]

Yuqing Zhang, Zhu Li, Binghuai Lin, and Jinsong Zhang. "A Preliminary Study on Discourse Prosody Encoding in L1 and L2 English Spontaneous Narratives." In: *Proceedings of Interspeech* (2021), pp. 3949–3953. [doi]

Yuqing Zhang, Zhu Li, and Jinsong Zhang. "A Comparison Study on the Alignment of Prosodic and Semantic Units and Its Effects on F0 Shifting in L1 and L2 English Spontaneous Speech." In: *International Symposium on Chinese Spoken Language Processing* (2021). [doi]

Zhu Li, **Yuqing Zhang**, Dengfeng Ke, Binhuai Lin, and Yanlu Xie. "Data-driven Stimulus Continuum Generation with Variational Autoencoder." In: *National Conference on Man-Machine Speech Communication* (October 2021). [pdf]

Presentations

Yuqing Zhang, Zhu Li, and Jinsong Zhang. "Relationships between Perceptual Distinctiveness and Functional Load in Different Phonological Contexts". In: *National Conference on Man-Machine Speech Communication* (October 2021).

Yuqing Zhang and Jinsong Zhang. "Patterns in Information Contributions of Phonemic Contrasts Based on Functional Load". In: *The 14th Phonetic Conference of China (PCC)* (July 2021).

Rian Bao, Wenhan Yao, **Yuqing Zhang**, and Jinsong Zhang. "A Quantification Method for Intelligibility and Comprehensibility of Speech Based on Functional Load". In: *The 14th Phonetic Conference of China (PCC)* (July 2021).

Manuscripts

Zhu Li, **Yuqing Zhang**, Mengxi Nie, Ming Yan, Mengnan He, Ruixiong Zhang, Caixia Gong. "Improving Prosody for Unseen Texts in Speech Synthesis by Utilizing Linguistic Information and Noisy Data." [arXiv]

Teaching Experience

Winter 2021	**Teaching Assistant**, Introduction to Probability Theory, *BLCU*
Summer 2017	**Teaching Assistant**, Humanity, Science and Nature in the West, *BFSU*

Working Experience

July 2021 - Jan 2022	**Speech Algorithm Intern**, Speech Synthesis and Language Modeling, AI Enabling Platform, *DiDi Chuxing*, Beijing, China
Spring 2019	**Research Assistant**, Language Aging project, Laboratory of Phonetics and Speech Science, *Chinese Academy of Social Sciences*, Beijing, China
Winter 2017	**Dictionary Editing Intern**, Educational Publishing Department, *Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press*, Beijing, China

Languages & Skills

Programming Languages & Tools: Python, R, Praat, Perl, LaTeX

Natural Languages: Mandarin (native), English (fluent), German (basic), Spanish/Catalan (basic), Japanese (basic)

Data Processing: mixed-effects models, regression, multidimensional scaling, etc.

━━━━━ Awards & Grants

2021   2nd prize for the best conference paper (PCC 2021) (first author)

2021   3rd prize for the best conference paper (PCC 2021) (third author)

2021   National Scholarship (Top 5% at School of Information Science), *BLCU*

2019, 2021   First Class Scholarship, *BLCU*

2018   Second Class Scholarship & Outstanding Student Award, *BFSU*