

ZEPING LIU

CONTACT INFORMATION	Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures Indiana University Bloomington 355 N. Eagleson Ave, Bloomington, IN 47405	zepliu@iu.edu +1 (812)-671-8970 https://zepliu.github.io
RESEARCH INTERESTS	General: Psycholinguistics; neurolinguistics; first & second language acquisition; Chinese language processing Focused topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sentence processing; Prosodic and syntactic disambiguation• Written word recognition and orthographic processing in children• Computational modeling of human syntactic processing using Large Language Models	
EDUCATION & TRAINING	Indiana University Bloomington, IN, USA Ph.D. Candidate, Chinese Linguistics (major); Psychology (minor) Dissertation: <i>Unfolding syntax through prosody in a tone language</i> Committee members: Dr. Chien-Jer Charles Lin; Dr. N. Bonnie Nozari; Dr. Kenneth De Jong; Dr. Yuan Lu	August 2020 -
	University of Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany The 7 th Summer School on Statistical Methods for Linguistics and Psychology Stream: Introduction to Bayesian data analysis	Summer 2023
	Beijing Language and Culture University, Beijing, China M.A. in Linguistics Thesis: <i>Online processing of causal relations in Korean learners of Mandarin Chinese</i>	2016 - 2019
	North China Institute of Science and Technology, Hebei, China B.A. in Chinese Language Pedagogy	2012 - 2016
PUBLICATIONS	Zhang, M., Liu, Z. , Liu, X., Lu, P., Liu, L., & Guo, T. (2025). Electrophysiological activity predicts children's reading ability through orthographic awareness: Evidence from a cross-sectional and longitudinal study. <i>Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience</i> , 101609. Liu, Z. & Lin, C. J. C. (2025). Plausibility leads to better comprehension but not syntactic adaptation: Evidence from structural disambiguation in Chinese. <i>Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology</i> , 0(0). Liu, Z. & Lin, C. J. C. (2025). Grammar in syntactic adaptations of Chinese: The State of the Art. In: Teng, SH., Chang, LP., Liu, TH. (eds) <i>Handbook of Chinese Language Learning and Technology</i> . Springer, Singapore. Zhang, M.*, Liu, Z.* , Botezatu, M.R., Dang, Q., Yuan, Q., Han, J., Liu, L., & Guo, T. (2023). A large-scale database of Chinese characters and words collected from elementary school textbooks. <i>Behavior Research Method</i> , 1-26. (* denotes equal contribution) Zhang, Z., Yuan, Q., Liu, Z. , Zhang, M., Wu, J., Lu, C., Ding, G., & Guo, T. (2021). The cortical organization of writing sequence: evidence from observing Chinese characters in motion. <i>Brain Structure and Function</i> , 1-13.	
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	Lin, C. J. C., Liu, Z. & Dong, X. (2025). Building structures left to right and bottom up: The production and perception of syntactic branching by L1 and L2 users of a tone Language.	

Oral presentation at the *31st Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP-2025)*, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic. September 4-6.

Liu, Z. & Lin, C. J. C. (2025). The sound of syntax: Prosodic disambiguation for syntactic branching in a tone language. Poster presentation at the *38th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing*, University of Maryland, College Park, MD. March 27-29.

Liu, Z., Lin, C. J. C., & Nozari, N. (2025). Not lost in the garden path: Large Language Models navigate their way to syntactic knowledge. Poster presentation at the *38th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing*, University of Maryland, College Park, MD. March 27-29.

Liu, Z., Lin, C. J. C., & Nozari, N. (2024). Evaluating large language models surprisal on garden path ambiguity difficulty in English and Mandarin. Poster presentation at *Psychonomic Society 65th Annual Meeting*, New York City, NY. November 21-24.

Ding, X., Dong, X., Liu, X., & **Liu, Z.** (2024). Navigating Project-based Language Learning (PBL) challenges: A two-year journey of growth and reflections. Oral presentation at *ACTFL Annual Convention and World Languages Expo*, Philadelphia, PA. November 22-24.

Lin, C. J. C. & **Liu, Z.** (2024). Can semantics and prosody facilitate a syntactically unlikely parse? Oral presentation at *FOSS-15: The 15th Workshop on Formal Syntax and Semantics*, Taipei, Taiwan. October 12-13.

Liu, Z., Xin, C., & Lin, C. J. C. (2024). Usefulness of prosodic cues in parsing: Evidence from a novel cross-modal maze task. Poster presentation at *37th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing*, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. May 16-18.

Liu, Z. & Lin, C. J. C. (2023). Greater prediction error does not lead to better syntactic adaptation: Evidence from Chinese ambiguity resolution. Poster presentation at *29th Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP-2023)*, Donostia-San Sebastian, Spain. August 31-September 2.

Liu, Z. & Lin, C. J. C. (2022). Adaptation effects in sentence ambiguity resolution revisited. Poster presentation at *35th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing*, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA, US. March 24-26. (Virtual)

Liu, Z. & Lin, C. J. C. (2022). Cumulative structural priming in Chinese ambiguity resolution. Oral presentation at *Language and Computation: Cross-lingual Perspectives*, Renmin University of China–Indiana University Joint Funding Program, Renmin University of China, China, January 22. (Virtual)

Liu, Z. (2017). Discourse function of “personal pronoun + NP” in Chinese and its implication in Chinese as a Second Language Teaching. Poster presented at the *14th International Conference on Chinese as a Second Language (ICCSL-14)*, Shandong Normal University, Jinan, China. October 13-14.

TALKS

Adaptation effects in structural ambiguity resolution. Talk at Dr. Shravan Vasishth’s lab at University of Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany. September 2023.

Linear mixed effects models in language research: A tutorial using R. Talk at the Center for the Cognitive Science of Language, Beijing Language and Culture University, Beijing, China. June 2023.

RESEARCH & WORK EXPERIENCE

Language and Cognition Laboratory

2020 - Present

	Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, USA Graduate Researcher, PI: Dr. Chien-Jer Charles Lin	
	Writing Tutorial Service	2025 - Present
	Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, USA Provided individualized writing support to 50+ students across disciplines Developed strategies tailored to diverse writing needs and proficiency levels	
	State Key Laboratory of Cognitive Neuroscience and Learning	2019 - 2020
	Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China Research Assistant, PI: Dr. Taomei Guo Established a large-scale database of Chinese words and characters Conducted production experiments on Chinese-English bilinguals	
	Center of Foreign Language Research	Summer 2019
	Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press, Beijing, China Language Assessment Academic Researcher Prepared testing items, designed course development Coordinated with liaisons from teaching institutions	
TEACHING & MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE	Graduate Research Mentor Supervised an MA student on computational methods to syntactic processing Trained a PhD student in eye-tracking setup and data collection Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, USA	Spring 2025
	EALC-C 467 Chinese in Social Science	Spring 2024
	EALC-C 302 Third Year Chinese II	Spring 2023
	EALC-C 101 Elementary Chinese I Language Instructor Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, USA	Fall 2022 & 2023
	Introduction to Second Language Studies Primary Instructor Beijing Language and Culture University, Beijing, China	Spring 2019
	Princeton in Beijing language learning program Language Instructor Princeton University & Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China	Summer 2017
FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, & AWARDS	Graduate & Professional Student Government Travel Award (\$500) East Asian Studies Center Travel Award (\$500) Summer Pre-Dissertation Research Grant (\$3,500) International Enhancement Grant (\$2,000) EALC Department Grant-in-Aid (\$2,000) Hamilton Lugar Fellowship (\$23,000) Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, USA	2025 2025 & 2024 2024 2023 2023 2024 & 2021
	Human Sentence Processing Conference Travel Award (\$400) University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA	2024
	Graduate Student Fund Project (\$200) Graduate Academic Scholarship (\$1,500)	2018 2016

	Beijing Language and Culture University, Beijing, China
SERVICE (AD-HOC REVIEWING)	Handbook of Chinese Language Learning and Technology The North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL-34) Proceedings Behavior Research Methods Humanities and Social Sciences Communications
SKILLS	Software: R, E-prime, L ^A T _E X, Python, Matlab, PsychoPy, jsPsych Equipment: Eye-tracking, Event-Related Potentials (ERPs) Language: Mandarin Chinese (Native), Gan Chinese (Native), English (Advanced)