L2 Speakers' Derivation of Pragmatic Inferences at the Semantics-pragmatics Interface

Prof. Shuo FENG

Peking University

Date: January 23, 2024 (Tuesday)
Time: 4:30pm - 6:15pm (Hong Kong Time, UTC +8)
Venue: Room 306, Lee Shau Kee Building,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Abstract

Communication is not a straightforward and simple operation of arranging and comprehending words in a linear order. Very often, listeners have to go beyond the literal meaning of speakers' utterances to infer the intended and implied meaning. Listeners do this by drawing pragmatic inferences. For instance, the sentence "not all students passed the exam" means that some students passed the exam, and "Leo is not unhappy with the results" does not mean that Leo is happy with the results. The relation between *what is said* and *what is not said but implied* is complicated when deriving pragmatic inferences. This talk reports a series of studies that focus on how L2 speakers derive and interpret different types of pragmatic inferences at the semantics-pragmatics interface, including scalar implicatures, gradable adjectives and presuppositions. Through a synthesis of empirical studies, I aim to contribute to the broader understanding of the cognitive and processing mechanisms underpinning the derivation of pragmatic inferences in L2 speakers.

Speaker

Dr. Feng is an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Linguistics and Applied Linguistics, Peking University. She obtained her Ph.D. in English Language and Linguistics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Feng' research interests are second language acquisition and psycholinguistics, with a specific focus on acquisition and processing at the semantics-pragmatics interface. She publishes articles in *Studies in Second Language Acquisition, Second Language Research, Linguistic Approaches to Bilingualism* etc.

All Are Welcome

Enquiries
Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages, CUHK.
Tel: (852)3943 7911   Fax: (852)2603 7755   E-mail: lin@cuhk.edu.hk

Co-organizers

香港中文大學
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Chinese University of Hong Kong-Peking University
Joint Research Centre for Language and Human Complexity
香港中文大學–北京大學語言與人類複雜系統聯合研究中心

兒童雙語研究中心
Childhood Bilingualism Research Centre

香港中文大學–北京語言大學漢語語言學與應用語言學聯合研究中心
CUHK-BLCU Joint Research Center for Chinese Linguistics and Applied Linguistics