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FRIDAY SEMINARS IN SPEECH, LANGUAGE, AND HEARING

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Rainy Sun

Narrative Tell and Retell in Mandarin-English Bilingual Children

Abstract

Speech-language pathologists often use narrative samples to assess bilingual children's language skills. However, limited research guides clinical decisions regarding elicitation methods, assessment language, and interpretation of results for specific bilingual populations. The present study examined the impact of elicitation method (tell vs. retell) and language (Mandarin vs. English) on narrative skills in Mandarin-English bilingual children. We analyzed macro- and microstructure measures in narrative samples elicited from 79 Mandarin-English bilingual children. Results showed that macrostructure performance was stronger following an adult model during retell tasks compared to tell tasks and remained relatively stable across languages. Code-switching did not significantly impact macrostructure scores. For microstructure, children demonstrated stronger performance during retell tasks in English across all measures (story length, lexical diversity, sentence length, and syntactic complexity), but only in story length and lexical diversity in Mandarin. A post hoc analysis revealed that the differential effect of elicitation method on morphosyntactic outcomes between languages was likely due to linguistic differences. This study highlights distinct narrative patterns in Mandarin-English bilingual children across languages and elicitation methods, and the findings offer insights for clinicians' narrative assessment practices when working with Mandarin-English bilingual children.



Bio

Minsi "Rainy" Sun is a second-year PhD student in Dr. Pumpki Lei Su's Language Interaction and Language Acquisition (LILAC) Lab. She earned her master's degree in speech-language pathology from the MGH Institute of Health Professions in Boston, MA, and has two years of clinical experience working as a speech-language pathologist in rural Iowa and Minnesota. Her research focuses on language development in Mandarin-English bilingual children, and her long-term goals are to develop assessment and intervention programs for this population.

Date/Time: November, 14 @noon to 1 pm

Location: MS Teams and Room A229