

The Workshop on Milestones in the First Language Acquisition of Chinese

Date: December 29-30, 2009

Venue: The Chinese University of Hong Kong

The Workshop on Milestones in the First Language Acquisition of Chinese was held on December 29-30, 2009 at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). The two-day workshop, organized by Language Acquisition Laboratory of the Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages, CUHK, aimed to provide a forum for researchers who had been involved in establishing norms for first language development of Chinese, based on either longitudinal naturalistic observations or cross-sectional experimentation.

The event featured one and a half days of talks on milestones in Chinese language development, a parasession on child Chinese corpora, and a special lecture on the acquisition of Korean.

A total of 20 presentations was given by invited speakers from China, Taiwan, Korea, and Hong Kong, including:

Professor Hin-tat Cheung of National Taiwan University
Professor Chungmin Lee of Seoul National University
Professor Aijun Li of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
Professor Chunyan Ning of Tianjin Normal University
Professor Gladys Tang of Chinese University of Hong Kong
Professor Jane S. Tsay of National Chung Cheng University
Professor Benjamin T'sou of City University of Hong Kong
Professor Xiaolu Yang of Tsinghua University
Professor Yunqiu Zhang and Professor Lizhi Zou of Capital Normal University

In the parasession, researchers shared methodological reflections on the details of child Chinese corpora construction and the utility of certain computational tools for data processing, addressing issues such as word segmentation, part-of-speech (POS) tagging, aspects of dialectal corpora such as orthographic representation and code-mixing, and data interpretation.

In the open forum at the end of the workshop, participants from various research groups exchanged ideas and compared notes on new milestones in L1 acquisition of Chinese, new child Chinese corpora, as well as new assessment instruments and experimental protocols. A summary report on the forum discussions will soon be distributed.

Reported by

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