

Yutong YE

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Education

09/2023 - 09/2024	University College London, London, United Kingdom MSc Language Sciences: Neuroscience of Language and Speech (Distinction) Dissertation: <i>Covert Imitation During Passive Listening of Native and Non-Native Speech</i>
09/2019 - 06/2023	Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China BA English Language and Literature (GPA 3.7/4.0) Minor in Psychology (GPA 3.6/4.0)

Publications

Wilt, H., Evans, B. G., **Ye, Y.**, & Adank, P. (2025). *Covert imitation acts as an adaptive reflexive gain control system in non-native speech perception*. PsyArXiv. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/u379a_v1

Gao, Z., Zhai, M., Wei, L., **Ye, Y.**, Li, Y., & Li, P. (2025). *AI instructors with accents are better for knowledge learning* [In preparation]. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

Research Experience

10/2024 - present	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong SAR, China Department of Language Science and Technology Brain, Language and Computation Lab Research Assistant
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Project 1: Can AI Instructors Replace Human Instructors? Role of Identity and Emotional Valence of AI Instructors for Student Learning

Study 1: AI Instructors with Accents Are Better for Knowledge Learning.

- Developed a methodological framework based on inter-speaker **accent similarity analysis** to examine potential shifts in students' accents during discussions with an AI instructor;
- Prepared materials and collected pilot data (N = 18).

Study 2: When Do LLM Powered Agents Improve Feedback Efficacy? Emotional And Behavioral Responses to Multimodal Tutor Design.

- Generated AI avatars and synthetic videos using HeyGen;
- Created voice clones with different emotional valences via Minimax.

Project 2: Modality-Dependent Neural Mechanisms of Narrative Processing: Reading vs. Audiovisual Input

- Designed and programmed an **eye-tracking experiment** using a Tobii eye-tracker, and conducted pilot data collection (N = 18);
- Programmed and ran a behavioral experiment (N = 10) in **PsychoPy**, where participants labeled materials for subsequent analysis;

- Selected suitable questionnaires and cognitive tests for assessing participants' individual differences.

Project 3: Joint Attention During VR Based-Collaborative Learning: A Two-Person fNIRS Study

- Recorded VR lecture videos for use as experimental learning materials;
- Completed training in fNIRS operation and preparation for upcoming data collection.

01/2024 - 09/2024 University College London, London, United Kingdom
 Department of Speech Hearing and Phonetic Sciences
 The Speech on the Brain Lab
MSc Student

Project: Covert Imitation During Passive Listening of Native and Non-Native Speech

- Assisted in data collection for a single-pulse **TMS-EMG** study (N = 30);
- Conducted **statistical analyses in R** using Generalized Linear Mixed-Effects Models (**GLMMs**) to examine experimental effects and account for inter-subject variability.

04/2021 - 05/2022 Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China
 School of Foreign Language and Literature
 Undergraduate Research Training Program
Team Member

Project: Communicative Strategies of Conflict Talk in Friends Season 3

- Conducted literature review and compiled data with other team members to identify communicative strategies in *Friends* Season 3;
- Awarded Third Prize in the “BNU Cup” Academic Works Competition.

Honors

Third Prize of the “BNU Cup” Academic Works Competition, BNU, 2022

First-Class Incentive Scholarship (Top 20%), BNU, 2020, 2022

Second-Class Jingshi Scholarship (Top 30%), BNU, 2020, 2022

Skills

Experimental Tools	PsychoPy , Tobii (eye tracking), Praat (acoustic analysis, annotation)
Neuroimaging	fNIRS (training completed), EEG (basic data collection and preprocessing)
Neuromodulation	TMS-EMG (single-pulse, N = 30)
Programming	Python (reading and customizing scripts)
Statistics	R (lme4, ggplot2, ANOVA); SPSS (factor analysis); Jamovi (ANOVA)

Language

Chinese	Native Mandarin speaker
English	IELTS 7.5 (L 8.5 R 8.0 W 6.5 S 6.5)
Spanish	Basic (completed an introductory course)