

Asian Association of Social Psychology Symposium on Culture & Language

Chair: **James Liu**, Massey University

IALSP and AASP (The Asian Association of Social Psychology) have a long term agreement to mutually present symposia at each others' conferences. This agreement was initiated by Professor Sikhung Ng who was an active and influential member of both associations. This year's AASP symposium is an eclectic mix of papers from AASP members focused on the intersection between culture and language, and spanning a wide range of interests from narrative text analysis of intergroup relations (Liu) to social psychological analyses of intergenerational communication (Zhang), to the impact of language constructions in the difficulty of learning Japanese (Inoue), and neurological analysis of false beliefs (Guan). The studies highlight the range and complexity of research interests spanning AASP, today a large organization of more than 1000 members, with strong interests in culture and social psychology.

Narrative Categorical Analysis of New Zealand Speeches from the Throne, 1854-2014: The Construction of Agency for the Crown, Maori, and British Settlers from Colonial to Modern Times

James H. Liu, Massey University; **Tibor Polya**, Hungarian Academy of Sciences; and **Eva Fulop**, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Scientific Narrative Psychology (pioneered by Janos Laszlo) integrates quantitative methods into the study of identity through grammatical sentence structures that allow inferences about meaning (through Narrative Categorical Analysis, NarrCat). NarrCat is a tool for machine-made transformation of sentences in text to psychologically relevant narrative categories. Whereas previous work has been on texts in Hungarian, we present here analysis of an English language corpus, Speeches from the Throne for New Zealand 1854-2014 (163 speeches), setting the legislative agenda for a new government. We describe how NarrCat modules are able to provide detailed analysis of agency, emotion and emotion expressed in the speeches by the Crown (government), Maori (the indigenous inhabitants of New Zealand), and European Settlers over the course of time.

South Korean Young Adults' Attitudes Toward Older Adults: Exploring the Direct and Indirect Effects of Contact Experiences

Yan Bing Zhang, University of Kansas

From the theoretical perspectives of communication accommodation and intergroup contact, this study examined South Korean young adults' perceptions of their communication

experiences with a frequently-contacted grandparent, as well as attitudes toward older adults. Findings indicated that the participants' attitudes towards older adults were positively predicted by contact frequency with the grandparent and negatively predicted by perceptions of the grandparent's nonaccommodative communication. Analyses of indirect effects revealed that while young adults' intergroup anxiety explained these direct associations, filial piety only explained the positive association between contact frequency and attitudes. Furthermore, high age salience blocked the generalization of individual-level intergroup communication experiences to group-level attitudes. Results are discussed in terms of intergenerational communication and culture, and theories of intergroup contact.

It is not only morphologies which make it difficult to acquire Japanese intransitive sentences: cultural and social norms in Japan

Yumi Inoue, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Japanese language is known to possess many intransitive-transitive paired verbs, such as “aku-akeru” (open) and “nukeru-nuku” (pull out). As there are 9 regular-fixed morphological patterns, in addition to some irregular patterns, acquiring these types of verbs becomes a challenge for Non-Native Speakers(NNS). Recently more studies have reported that intransitive verbs are more difficult to acquire. Japanese prefer to describe an event as “naturally occurred” using intransitive verbs even when there is a human factor, and when covering up mistakes as a socially acquired norm. This paper argues that not only morphologies, but difficulties of acquiring Japanese cultural and social norms may affect NNS's wrongly choosing a transitive verb in a situation where an intransitive verb is a natural choice

Oscillatory Brain Activity Differentially Reflects False Belief Understanding and Complementation Syntax Processing

Yao Guan, University of Florida

False belief understanding (FBU) enables people to consider conflicting beliefs about the same situation. While language is a demonstrated correlate of FBU, there is still controversy about necessary conditions for FBU. We tested an important notion from the debate in developmental psychology proposing that complementation syntax task is redundant to false belief measures. To do so, we examined electrophysiological correlates of false belief, false complementation, and their respective true conditions in 44 adults using electroencephalography (EEG), focusing on indices of oscillatory brain activity and large-scale connectivity. The result of divergence in beta (13-20 Hz) oscillatory activity and in connectivity between false belief and false complementation does not support the redundancy hypothesis.