Yi-Fang Cheng

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EDUCATION

Purdue University   West Lafayette, IN, USA
Ph.D. in Linguistics with a Graduate Certificate in Applied Statistics   *Aug. 2024 – May 2027 (expected)*
- Advised by Prof. Daniel J. Olson
- Affiliated with Purdue Bilingualism Lab (PBL) and Computational Social Science Lab (CSS)
- NSF Innovation Corps Program National Team Trainee

Purdue University   West Lafayette, IN, USA
Master of Arts in Linguistics   *Aug. 2022 – Aug. 2024*
- Thesis: The Role of Phonetic Awareness in Modulating Bilingual Cross-linguistic Interaction: Evidence from Code-switching (A Quantitative Analysis on Bilingual Acoustic Phonetics)
- Relevant Coursework: Statistical Methods, Statistical Modeling for Linguistics, Applied Linear Analysis, Corpus Linguistics with Python, Acoustic of Speech, Speech Technology, The Data Mine Seminar

National Taiwan Normal University   Taipei, Taiwan
Bachelor of Arts in English   *Sep. 2017 – Jun. 2022*
Bachelor of Music in Music
- *Relevant Coursework: Research Methods, Linguistic Analysis, Computer Programming in Python*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

NSF Innovation Corps   Remote
Entrepreneurial Lead   *June. 2025 – July. 2025 (scheduled)*
- Technology: Immersive speech-based chatbot for language learning

The Data Mine   West Lafayette, IN, USA
Graduate Data Science Researcher, Reported to Knudsen Institute   *Aug. 2024 - Dec. 2024*
- Project: Training LLMs within Manufacturing
- Designed and implemented data pipelines to scrape, clean, and preprocess manufacturing text data for LLM training

Graduate Data Science Researcher, Reported to C-SPAN   *Jan. 2024 - May. 2024*
- Project: Analysis of Rhetoric on Capitol Hill
- Processed and analyzed congressional speech data to quantify political polarization, using pitch (fundamental frequency) and emotional intensity as metrics
- Employed Bash scripting, Praat scripting, Whisper, and the Parselmouth library for advanced audio analysis

Purdue Bilingualism Lab   West Lafayette, IN, USA
Research Assistant   *Aug. 2022 – Jan. 2023*
- Project: Cross-linguistic Interference and Code-switching Typology
- Analyzed, annotated, and extracted acoustic features of English and Korean speech data
- Recruited participants and ran phonetic experiments within experimental laboratory settings

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

[C1] Pitch is Fundamental: Has Congressional Rhetoric Become More Polarized? ***Cheng, Y.-F.** (2024). Paper presented at the Biennial Conference of the Brussels Institute for Journalism studies, Brussels, Belgium. (Declined)*

[C2] Phonetic Awareness and Phonetic interference in code-switching among Bilinguals. ***Cheng, Y.-F.**, Olson, D. J. (2024). Paper presented at the UIC Bilingualism Forum, Chicago, IL, USA.*

[C3] The effect of phonetic awareness on second language phonetic acquisition. ***Cheng, Y.-F.**, Olson, D. J. (2024). Paper presented at the Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching Conference, Ames, IA, USA.*

[C4] The Role of Phonetic Awareness in Modulating Bilingual Cross-linguistic Interaction: Evidence from Code-switching.*Cheng, Y.-F., Olson, D. J. (2024). Purdue Linguistics Symposium, West Lafayette, IN, USA*

[C5] Phonetic interference in bilingual speech: The role of code-switching typology.*Seo, Y., Olson, D. J., **Cheng, Y.-F.** (2023). Paper presented at the Bilingualism Matters Research Symposium, Colombia, SC, USA.*

[C6] Cross-linguistic interference in second language vowels: Evidence from code-switching.*Seo, Y., Olson, D. J., **Cheng, Y.-F.** (2023). Paper presented at the Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching Conference, West Lafayette, IN, USA.*

[P1] (Submitted) The Role of Orthography in Phonetic Interference during Code-switching. ***Cheng, Y-F.**, Olson, D. J.*

[P2] (Sybmitted) The effect of phonetic awareness on second language phonetic acquisition.***Cheng, Y.-F.**, Olson, D. J.*

Work Experience

VoiceTube Inc.   Taipei, Taiwan
Content Intern   *Feb. 2022 – Jul. 2022*
- Advanced steady user engagement by producing and translating 60+ English videos distributed to 4M+ users worldwide
- Developed and launched computer-assisted language learning products by designing content and materials for a leading ed-tech company

Teaching Experience

LING 201: Introduction to Linguistics, Purdue University
Instructor, Course coordinator (Spring 2025)   *Aug. 2024 - Present*
- Instructed introductory linguistics course covering a broad range of theoretical and applied linguistics topics including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, historical linguistics, sociolinguistics, computational linguistics, and language acquisition

CHNS 101, 102, DIST 101: Chinese, Purdue University
Instructor   *Jan. 2023 – Aug. 2024*
- Instructed Mandarin Chinese language courses, covering from beginner to upper-beginner levels, delivered through both in-person and remote formats

Service

- Abstract Reviewer, 28th Midcontinental Phonetics and Phonology Conference
- Organizing Committee, 28th Midcontinental Phonetics and Phonology Conference
- Volunteer, 14th Annual Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching Conference
- Moderator, Purdue Linguistics Symposium 2023
- Purdue Linguistics Association, Workshop Chair (2023–2024)

Grants and Awards

- PROMISE Award, Purdue University (2024), $1000
- PROMISE Award, Purdue University (2023), $1000

Skills

Languages: Python, R, SAS, SQL, Bash
Frameworks & Tools: PyTorch, Praat
DevOps: Git, Docker