Abstract:
In the first part of this talk, I will describe the profile of lexical-semantic development in Mandarin-English bilingual children growing up in an English-dominant environment. I will then discuss the effect of linguistic typology on lexical development among bilingual children and present evidence from children who speak Spanish-English and Mandarin-English. In the second part of the talk, I will focus on the effects of language impairment on the development of the lexical-semantic systems in both monolingual and bilingual children. Future directions of my research will be discussed.

About the speaker:
Dr Li Sheng is an Associate Professor at the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Texas at Austin and director of the Language Learning and Bilingualism Laboratory. Dr. Sheng’s research interests are in the areas of language development and disorders and bilingualism. Her current projects examine how linguistic typology affects vocabulary and grammar development in bilingual children who speak different first languages such as Mandarin and Spanish. She is also interested in the manifestations of language impairment in Mandarin Chinese and the development of assessment tools for the Chinese population. Dr. Sheng has published papers in the Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research, Child Development, Bilingualism: Language and Cognition, among others. She is an associate editor for American Journal of Speech Language Pathology and an editorial consultant for over 20 academic journals and publishing companies. Her research has been funded by the National Academy of Education and the Spencer Foundation.