Faculty of Education
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The Effects of Gender on Language Learning Strategy Use: A Meta-Analytic Study

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(Chair: Dr Andy Gao)

Abstract:
Gender differences in language acquisition have long been a topic of research interest. In specific, different neurological structures and processes between male and female provide indirect evidence for gender differences in L2 strategy use. However, empirical studies employing scale instruments in SLA have produced inconsistent and mixed results in this line of research inquiry. To integrate the research findings from different primary studies, therefore, this study meta-analyzed the individual studies that investigated the frequency of language learning strategy (LLS) use by male and female EFL learners. In particular, this meta-analytic study placed a focus on reviewing the primary studies that employed The Strategy Inventory for Language Learning (SILL: Oxford, 1990). In total, 40 SILL-based studies of EFL learners in the literature (n = 11,962: m= 5,142, f = 6,820) were analyzed to ascertain the presence of gender effects in strategy use. The meta-analytic results showed that female and male EFL learners behaved markedly differently on the frequency of LLS use across all the six strategy types. We further suggested that the gender gap revealed in this meta-analytic study could be corroborated by both psychometric and neurological findings. We argue that it is still too early and unwise to void the concept of behavioral likelihood of strategic learning in L2. The unparalleled and asymmetric frequency patterns of LLS use in language learning may signal trait differences of other individual differences factors such as anxiety, aptitude, and learning styles.

About the speaker:
Dr Wen-Ta Tseng is an associate professor in the Department of English, National Taiwan Normal University. His expertise includes language education, educational assessment, psycholinguistics. He has published extensively in journals such as *Applied* Linguistics and *Language Learning*.

~ All are welcome ~
For enquiries, please contact the Office of Research at 3917 8254.