Ye Li

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Education

2025 Ph.D. in Psychology (Cognitive Science), Arizona State University (Tempe, United States)
- Doctoral dissertation: *Assessing Speech, Action, and Temporal Synchrony in Parent-Child Play with Familiar and Unfamiliar Objects*
- Academic mentor: Dr. Viridiana L. Benitez

2022 MA in Psychology (Cognitive Science), Arizona State University (Tempe, United States)
- Master thesis: *The Role of Working Memory in Statistical Word Learning*
- Academic mentor: Dr. Viridiana L. Benitez

2017 MA in Applied English Linguistics, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong, China)
- Academic mentor: Dr. Derek Ho Leung Chan

2014 BA in English Language and Literature, Minzu University of China (Beijing, China)

Research Interests

Language development; infant learning; sensorimotor development; embodied cognition; dynamical system; word learning and language experiences

Manuscripts

***** denotes corresponding author

Publications & in press

Li, Y.* & Benitez, V. L.* (2025a). Concurrences across time and sensorimotor capacities promote infant learning. *Child Development Perspectives*. *19*(2): 99-107. https://doi.org/10.1111/cdep.12531

Li, Y.* & Benitez, V.L. (2025b). Probing the role of multilingualism and working memory in cross-situational word learning. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*. *51*(5), 804–824. https://doi.org/10.1037/xlm0001361

Li, Y.* & Benitez, V. L. (2024). Lexical tone as a cue in statistical word learning from bilingual input. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition. 27*(5): 886-900. https://doi.org/10.1017/S1366728923000858

Benitez, V. L.*, & **Li, Y**. (2024). Cross-situational word learning in children and adults: The case of lexical overlap. *Language Learning and Development*. *20* (3): 195-218. https://doi.org/10.1080/15475441.2023.2256713

李叶,张子菡,黄奕. 1961年到1990年英国性别歧视现象的历时研究 ——基于语料库的探索[J]. 重庆工商大学学报（社会科学版）,2020,37(2):128-140. DOI:10.3969/j.issn.1672-0598.2020.02.013. [English translation] **Li, Y.***, Zhang, Z., & Huang, Y. (2020). A corpus-based diachronic analysis on gender bias in Great Britain from 1961 to 1990. *Journal of Chongqing Technology and Business University (Social Science Edition). 37*(02): 128-140.

Manuscripts under review

Li, Y.*, Yu, S. P., McBeath, M. K., & Benitez, V. L. (under review). U.S. English-speaking children and adults exhibit a “Gleam-Glum” sound symbolic effect linking phonemic vowel sounds with emotional valence.

Kuo, J. E., **Li, Y.**, Yu, S. P., McBeath, M. K., & Benitez, V. L.* (under review). The Wham-Womb sound symbolic effect: English-speaking children and adults link phonemes with arousal.

Yu, X. X., Xu, W. Q., Yu, S. F., & **Li, Y.*** (under review). Assessing the effectiveness of high-school physics laboratories based on embodied cognition theories -- a study on learning high-school mechanics.

Open science practice

Projects adhere to open science practice. Find the projects, datasets and R programming codes here: osf.io/edr3k

Media Coverage

2025 Uncovering the baby steps behind how children learn – news covered by Arizona State University
2022 Understanding bilingual language learning via Zoom virtual data collection – news covered by Arizona State University Graduate College

Ph.D. Training Milestones at Arizona State University

Dissertation (2025 April, completed)

- Topic: Assessing speech, action, and temporal synchrony in parent-child play with familiar and unfamiliar objects
- Committee members: Viridiana L. Benitez (chair), Arthur M. Glenberg, Polemnia G. Amazeen, Kelsey Lucca, Jessica E. Kosie

Comprehensive examination (2023 March, completed)

- Topic: Revisiting infant development (language, action, and attention) in a dynamical system
- Committee members: Viridiana L. Benitez (chair), Linda B. Smith (Indiana University), Arthur M. Glenberg, Polemnia G. Amazeen
- Learning outcome: **Li, Y.*** & Benitez, V. L.* (2025a). Concurrences across time and sensorimotor capacities promote infant learning. *Child Development Perspectives*. *19*(2): 99-107. https://doi.org/10.1111/cdep.12531

Master project (2022 May, completed)

- Topic: Assessing the role of working memory in cross-situational word learning
- Committee members: Viridiana L. Benitez (chair), Gene Brewer, Stephen Goldinger
- Learning outcome: **Li, Y.*** & Benitez, V.L. (2025b). Probing the role of multilingualism and working memory in cross-situational word learning. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*. *51*(5), 804–824. https://doi.org/10.1037/xlm0001361

First-year project (2021 May, completed)

- Topic: Applying Mandarin Chinese lexical tones to cross-situational word learning to understand bilingual word learning
- Committee members: Viridiana L. Benitez (chair), Arthur M. Glenberg, Gene Brewer
- Learning outcome: **Li, Y.*** & Benitez, V. L. (2024). Lexical tone as a cue in statistical word learning from bilingual input. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition. 27*(5): 886-900. https://doi.org/10.1017/S1366728923000858

Research Grants & Fellowship

2024 Dissertation Scholarship Grant ($1,000), Arizona Psychological Foundation
2024 Completion Fellowship, 2024 Fall - 2025 Spring ($24,600 per academic year), Graduate College, ASU
2024 Graduate Research Support Program Grant ($1,982, Terminal Project Category), Graduate College and Graduate and Professional Student Association, ASU
2023 Jumpstart Research Grant ($750), Graduate and Professional Student Association, ASU
2023 Innovation Fellowship ($300), Graduate Professional Student Association, ASU
2022 Jumpstart Research Grant ($750), Graduate and Professional Student Association, ASU
2020 Pandemic Impact Grant ($744.25), Graduate College, ASU

Awards

2025 3rd Place Tie ($800, Completed Research Category), Institute for Social Science Research Poster Contest, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, ASU
2025 1st Place, Robert B. Cialdini Event Graduate Student Poster Contest, Department of Psychology, ASU
2025 Graduate Excellence Award ($100), The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, ASU
2024 Robert B. Cialdini Graduate Scholar Award for Theoretical Development in Psychology ($2,500), Department of Psychology, ASU
2024 Completion Award in Psychology ($1,720), Department of Psychology, ASU
2024 Outstanding Mentor Award ($750), Graduate and Professional Student Association, ASU
2024 Retention Award ($7,376), Department of Psychology, ASU
2023 Honorable Mention Award ($400, Completed Research Category), Institute for Social Science Research Poster Contest, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, ASU
2023 Psychology Graduate Scholar Doctoral Award ($1,000), Department of Psychology, ASU
2023 Graduate Excellence Award ($100), The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, ASU
2022 Research Excellence Award ($750), Graduate and Professional Student Association, ASU
2017 Research Poster Exhibition Contest 1st Place Award, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
2017 Outstanding Graduate Award, The Independent Learning Center, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Invited Talks

2025 **Li, Y.** (Januarary). U.S. English-speaking children and adults exhibit a "Gleam-Glum" sound symbolic effect linking phonemic vowel sounds with emotional valence. Talk at School of Foreign Languages and Literature, Capital Young Scholars Forum, Beijing Normal University (Remote; Mandarin Chinese)
2023 **Li, Y.** (May). Development of sound symbolic effect: evidence of Gleam-Glum effect among English-speaking adults and children. Talk at The College of Education and Technology, Central China Normal University, China (Remote; Mandarin Chinese)
2022 **Li, Y.** (December). Cross-situational word learning under variant word-referent mapping structures. Talk at Tsuji Lab, International Research Center for Neurointelligence, The University of Tokyo, Japan (Remote)

Conference Presentation

#Denotes students/mentees
*Denotes equal authorship

Talks

Li, Y., Landfair, J. T., Amazeen. P. G., Lucca. K., & Benitez. V. L. *Assessing parent-child play with familiar and unfamiliar objects in home environment.* Talk to be presented at Arizona Psychological Association Convention 2025, October 2025; Flagstaff, Arizona, United States; Remote

Li, Y., Landfair, J. T., Amazeen. P. G., Lucca. K., & Benitez. V. L. *Assessing parent-child synchrony in speech and action when playing with familiar and unfamiliar objects.* Talk presented at Society for Research in Child Development 2025 Biennial Meeting, May 2025; Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States. **Chair of the symposium entitled "Timing matters: Assessing the temporal structure of behaviors and inputs in early childhood"**

McBeath, M. K., Yu, S. P., **Li, Y**., Zapp, T., & Benitez, V. L. *Did phonemics originally evolve to discriminate emotions? Gleam-Glum and Wham-Womb Effects are robustly confirmed when naming emotional cartoons with pseudowords*. Non-presenting author for a talk presented at: 2022 Psychonomics conference, Nov 2022; Boston, Massachusetts.

Li, Y., & Benitez, V. L. *Lexical tone as a linguistic cue in statistical word learning from bilingual input*. **Talk** presented at: 2021 The Asia-Pacific Babylab Constellation, December 2021; Remote

Benitez, V. L., **Li, Y**., & Cassandra, C. *Bilingual statistical word learning in children and adults*. Non-presenting author for a talk presented at: 2021 Society for Research in Child Development, April 2021; Remote

Posters

Hagihara, H., Fukada, C., **Li, Y.**, & Sakagami, M. *Uncovering latent semantic and grammatical development embedded in word form: A data-driven analysis of early vocabulary in English and Mandarin Chinese*. 9th Lancaster International Conference on Infant and Early Child Development (LCICD), Poster Session 1, A13, August 2025; Lancaster, UK. https://wp.lancs.ac.uk/lcicd/programme/

Malhotra, T.[#], **Li, Y.**, & Benitez, V. L. *Stir a whisk? Toddlers increase their two-handed exploration when manipulating unfamiliar objects compared to familiar objects*. Poster presented at Society for Research in Child Development 2025 Biennial Meeting, May 2025; Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States

Li, Y., Landfair, J. T., Amazeen, P. G., Lucca, K., & Benitez, V. L. *Assessing parent-child synchrony in speech and action when playing with familiar and unfamiliar objects*. Poster presented at: 2025 Institute for Social Science Research Poster Contest, April 2025; Tempe, Arizona. **3rd Place Tie Award**

Li, Y., Landfair, J. T., Amazeen, P. G., Lucca, K., & Benitez, V. L. *Assessing parent-child synchrony in speech and action when playing with familiar and unfamiliar objects*. Poster presented at: 2025 Cialdini Event Graduate Student Poster Presentation, April 2025; Tempe, Arizona. **1st Place Award**

Bellani, A.[#], **Li, Y.**, & Benitez, V. L. *Exploring parental speech patterns about familiar and unfamiliar objects during parent-chil dplay*. Non-presenting author for a poster presented at: 2025 AZPURC; Apr 2025, Tempe, Arizona

Witmer, D.[#], **Li, Y.**, & Benitez, V. L. *Young children's manual exploration of unfamiliar objects in play with their parent*. Non-presenting author for a poster presented at: 2025 AZPURC; Apr 2025, Tempe, Arizona. **2nd Place Award**

Gomez, A.[#], **Li, Y.**, & Benitez, V. L. *Assessing the link between parent's question asking and children's curiosity whe playing with familiar and unfamiliar objects*. Non-presenting author for a poster presented at: 2025 AZPURC; Apr 2025, Tempe, Arizona

Malhotra, T.[#], **Li, Y.**, & Benitez, V. L. *Stir a whisk? Toddlers increase their two-handed exploration when manipulating unfamiliar objects compared to familiar objects*. Poster presented at: 2024 Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) Conference, November 2024; Phoenix, Arizona

Li, Y., Landfair, J. T., Amazeen, P. G., Lucca, K., & Benitez, V. L. *Parent-toddler speech synchrony when playing with familiar and unfamiliar objects - an application of cross-recurrence quantification analysis*. Poster presented at: 2024 IEEE International Conference on Development and Learning (ICDL), May 2024; Austin, Texas

Kuo, J.[#], **Li, Y**., Yu, S. P., McBeath, M., & Benitez., V. L. *The "Wham-Womb" sound symbolic effect: English-speaking children and adults link phonemes with arousal*. Non-presenting author for a poster presented at: 2024 College of Health Solutions Student Research Symposium; Apr 2024; Phoenix, Arizona

*Malhotra, T.[#], *Smolens, L.[#], Aberra, E.[#], Bellani, A.[#], Giron, R.[#], Gomez, A.[#], **Li, Y**., Lucca, K., & Benitez., V. L. *How do parents talk about a whisk? - An assessment of child-directed talk during parent-child toy play with unfamiliar and familiar objects*. Non-presenting author for a poster presented at: 2024 AZPURC; Apr 2024, Tempe, Arizona

Li, Y., Lucca, K., & Benitez., V. L. *The properties of child-directed speech in parent-toddler play with familiar and unfamiliar objects*. Poster presented at: 2024 Child Development Society; Mar 2024; Pasadena, California

Cardona, E.[#], Midgett, J.[#], **Li, Y.**, Lucca, K., & Benitez, V. L. *Verb extension by perceptual cues of shape and texture among young children*. Non-presenting author for a poster presented at: 2023 AZPURC, April 2023; Tempe, Arizona

Wang, V.[#], **Li, Y.**, & Benitez. V. L. *The role of instructional language on bilingual working memory performance*. Non-presenting author for a poster presented at: 2023 AZPURC, Apr 2023; Tempe, Arizona

Li, Y., Yu, S. P., Kuo, J.[#], Randall, J.[#], Sather, A.[#], Keefer, S.[#], McBeath, M., & Benitez., V. L. *The "Gleam-Glum" sound symbolic effect: children and adults link phonemic vowel sounds with emotional valence*. Poster presented at: 2023 Society of Research in Child Development, Mar 2023; Salt Lake City, Utah

Li, Y., & Benitez, V. L. *The role of working memory in cross-situational word learning*. Poster presented at: 2022 Psychonomics conference, Nov 2022; Boston, Massachusetts.

Li, Y., Lucca, K., & Benitez, V.L. *Learn verbs from shared perceptual cues among examples*. Poster presented at: 2022 International Congress of Infant Studies, July 2022; Ottawa, Canada.

Li, Y., & Benitez, V. L. *Lexical tone as a linguistic cue in statistical word learning from bilingual input*. Poster presented at: 2022 Cognitive Development Society, April 2022; Madison, Wisconsin.

Zhang, Z., **Li, Y.**, & Huang, Y. *A corpus-based study of epistemic modality in Chinese university students' English writing*. Poster presented at: 2017 Research Poster Exhibition Contest of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, May 2017; Shatin, HK. **Best Paper Award**

Teaching

Independent teaching

Lab instructor for undergraduate courses in the Department of Psychology, ASU.

- Research Methods (25 students/class)
- Term(s): 2020 Fall, 2021 Spring, 2023 Spring

Teaching assistant

Teaching assistant for undergraduate-level and graduate-level courses at ASU.

- Embodied Cognition (Instructor: Arthur Glenberg); 2020 Spring
- Developmental Psychology (Instructor: Viridiana L. Benitez); 2023 Fall
- Cognitive Development (Instructor: Kelsey Lucca); 2022 Spring, 2022 Fall
- Design and Stats for Neuroscience (Instructor: Carson Miller Rigoli); 2022 Spring
- Sensation and Perception (Instructor: Eric Amazeen); 2020 Spring
- Learning and Motivation (Instructor: Greg Stone); 2022 Fall
- Introduction to Statistics (Instructor: Elizabeth Nelson); 2019 Fall; 2024 Spring
- History & Scope of Psychological Science, taught in Mandarin Chinese (Instructor: Baoyu Wang); 2024 Summer
- Advanced Cognitive Science, taught in Mandarin Chinese (Instructor: Trudy Kuo); 2021 Summer

Mentorship

2019-Pre Co-mentored or still co-mentoring 28 students (2 master students, 2 Emerging Scholar Summer interns, and 24 undergraduate research assistants), with the principal investigator (Dr. Benitez)

Mentee Awards

2025 Luka Smolens won the Shapiro Scholarship awarded by the Department of Psychology, ASU
2024 Jillian Kuo won the Outstanding ALN MS Student Award awarded by the Speech and Hearing Science, ASU
2024 Anyssia Gomez won the Shapiro Scholarship awarded by the Department of Psychology, ASU
2024 Luka Smolens received Emerging Scholar Summer Internship (2024 - 2025 summers) funded by the Emerging Scholar Summer Internship Program, ASU
2023 Tanvi Malhotra received Emerging Scholar Summer Internship (2023 - 2024 summers) funded by Emerging Scholar Summer Internship Program, ASU
2022 Evelyn Cardona won the Shapiro Scholarship awarded by the Department of Psychology, ASU

Mentee Thesis

2025 Aryan Bellani is working on his undergraduate dissertation on the topic of Bursty pattern of parents' speech when talking about familiar versus unfamiliar objects
2025 Delaney Witmer is working on her undergraduate dissertation on the topic of Children's hand switches when playing with familiar versus unfamiliar objects
2025 Tanvi Malhotra is working on her internship project on the topic of Children's two-handed object touches when playing with familiar versus unfamiliar objects
2025 Anyssia Gomez is working on her undergraduate dissertation on the topic of Parents' question-asking and children's curiosity when playing with the familiar versus unfamiliar objects
2024 Luka Smolens passed his undergraduate dissertation on the topic of Parents' verb use during parent-child play with familiar versus unfamiliar objects
2024 Jillian Kuo (master student) passed her master thesis on the topic of Sound symbolic effect (Wham-Womb Effect) across children and adults
2023 Valerie Wang passed her undergraduate dissertation on the topic of Bilingualism and working memory

2023 Ruwayd Raffa passed his undergraduate dissertation on the topic of Predictable events and young children's word learning
2023 Evelyn Cardona passed her undergraduate dissertation on the topic of Multiple exemplars of shared perceptual cues on toddlers' verb extension

Mentee List (by project)

*Denotes students from the ENERGIZE program at ASU; ENERGIZE program aims to enhance learning experiences for underrepresented undergraduate students in psychological research.

2023–Pre Novel object talk in children
Delaney Witmer (Honor's student)
Aryan Bellani
Anyssia Gomez* (Shapiro scholarship awardee, 2024)
Luka Smolens* (Summer intern, 2024-25)
Tanvi Malhotra (Summer intern, 2023-24)
Reyan Giron
Cathryn Murrela
Elianna Aberra
Drew Wilson*

2023-2024 Wham-Womb effect in children
Jillian Kuo (Master student)

2022-2023 Gleam-Glum effect in children
Jada Randall (Honor's student)
Chantelle Robinson
Skyler Keefer
Amanda Sather

2022-2024 Bilingual working memory in adults
Valerie Wang
Renee Kang (Master student)

2022-2023 Eye movements and predictability in infants' word learning
Rudy Raffa*
Echo Lim

2022-2023 Learning verbs in young toddlers
Evelyn Cardona* (Shapiro scholarship awardee, 2022)
Molly Mansker
Jenna Midgett
Marisa Karbowski

2021-2022 Working memory and cross-situational word learning
Imtithal Noor
Zixin Hu
Benjamin Kussmann

2019-2022 Lexical tone and cross-situational word learning
Kaede Hattori
Alejandra Garcia
Rebeca Alvarado Ortega*
Roy Vasquez

Service to Profession

Reviewing: Journals (Ad Hoc)

Applied Linguistics, *Infant and Child Development*

Reviewing: Conferences (Ad Hoc)

Society for Research in Child Development, *American Psychological Association Conference*

Other Service

2023,24 Key mentor and training developer in Emerging Scholar Summer Internship Program at ASU
- Serving as a key mentor for undergraduate interns to develop their research skills in psychology-related fields during summers
- designing a 1.5-month R Programming Training Plan to enhance students' data analysis skills
- holding workshops in professional development series, including *All about data (Plotting in R)* workshop (2023) and *How to polish my CV?* workshop (2024)

2020-24 Graduate mentor in the ENERGIZE program of ASU to assist underrepresented undergraduate students in being successful in academia

2019-24 Founding member of Early Childhood Cognition Research Group (ECC) at ASU
- Coordinating and inviting guest speakers to ECC for talks
- Organizing outreach activities and events in local preschools and museums for family recruitment and community engagement, such as Tempe Museum and EAGLE Preschool

2021,23 AZPURC poster judge for undergraduate poster contests, Department of Psychology at ASU