

# Emma Merritt

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## CONTACT

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## PROFILE

A graduate student of linguistics whose research interests include language acquisition/bilingualism, syntactic theory, phonology, and language processing. Emma's B.A. thesis evaluated a possible hierarchy of cues for language differentiation in young Spanish- and English-speaking children. Her Master's dissertation analyzed consonant cluster production in toddlers acquiring English as a second language. Emma lived in Shanghai, China for seven years and received her bachelor's degree in Linguistics and Chinese from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, as a member of the Commonwealth Honors College, with minors in both Spanish and Education. She is also an alumna of Lucy Cavendish College at the University of Cambridge.

## EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts <i>Magna cum laude</i>	Linguistics and Chinese	University of Massachusetts Amherst	May 2019
Master of Philosophy	Theoretical and Applied Linguistics	University of Cambridge	June 2020

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Research Assistant**      University of Massachusetts Linguistics Dept.      *September 2017–2019*

Assisted with several ongoing language acquisition research projects, supervised by Prof. Tom Roeper. Responsibilities include working with children for raw data collection, protocol and task design, data coding/transcription, liaising with local elementary schools, and data analysis.

**Bilingual Tutor**      Sunderland Elementary School      *January–April 2019*

Worked one-on-one with a Chinese student entering third grade in the US. Responsibilities included translating for teachers and peers, one-on-one English tutoring, and bridging culture and knowledge gaps.

**Student Intern**      Joseph E. Metcalf Elementary School      *January–May 2018*

Spent 40 hours assisting in a Spanish immersion kindergarten, learning about bilingual and early literacy education.

**Designer/Editor**      University of Massachusetts Spanish & Portuguese Dept.      *May–December 2017*

Responsible for designing and editing fifty-two chapters of a pedagogical grammar book sponsored by UNESCO-Brazil for speakers of Wapichana, an indigenous language of northern Brazil.

**After School Staff**      Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School      *April–December 2018*

## OTHER

### *Publications*

Li, D., Yang, X., Roeper, T., Tero, A., Merritt, E., & Lopez, D. (In press). "Acquisition of recursive structures in child Mandarin." *Proceedings of the 44th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development*.

Merritt, E. (2020). "The Impact of Codemixing on Language Differentiation in Young Bilinguals." *Entrehojas: Revista de Estudios Hispánicos*.

### *Natural Languages*

English (USA)	Native
Mandarin Chinese	High Advanced (HSK 6)
Spanish (Spain)	High Advanced (CEFR C2)
American Sign Language (ASL)	High Intermediate
Portuguese (Brazil)	Intermediate (CEFR B1)
German	Intermediate (CEFR B1)

### *Computing Languages*

Python	Intermediate
HTML/CSS	Intermediate
Stata	Beginner
JavaScript	Beginner

### *Conferences*

<i>September 2019</i>	Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition (GALA) 14	Co-author	<i>"Acquisition of recursive structures in child Mandarin"</i>
<i>March 2019</i>	DEAFinitions: A Deaf Studies Conference	Volunteer/participant	
<i>February 2019</i>	American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Family Science Days	Exhibitor	<i>"Language Science for Everyone"</i>
<i>December 2018</i>	Language Acquisition Workshop for New England (LAWNE)	Presenter	<i>"Acquiring recursion across domains: results from math and language tasks"</i>
<i>April 2017</i>	Massachusetts Statewide Undergraduate Research Conference	Presenter	<i>"How does the presence of shape-based classifiers influence object categorization?"</i>

### *Certifications, awards and recognitions*

CITI Training for Human Subjects Research: Group 2	Valid through 20-Sept-2022
Commonwealth Honors College Scholar with Greatest Distinction	May 2019
Certificate of Specialization: Intermediate Level (American Sign Language)	May 2019