

Working with Your Adviser to Publish Articles and Present at Conferences

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Interim Director of ESL

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Academic Background

My doctoral degree:

- Oklahoma State University, Stillwater
- August 2011-May 2016
- Doctoral dissertation: August 2014-March 2016
- Dissertation's main ideas:
 - Iranian EFL students' affective engagement with written corrective feedback
 - Teachers' feedback practices: Discrepancies between perceptions and practices

Professional Background

- Interim Director of ESL; Department of English (June 2019-present)
 - Materials development
 - Teacher training
 - Placement tests: Administration and design
- Lecturer in Linguistics and ESL: The University of Tennessee, Knoxville (August 2016-present)
 - Linguistics classes
 - ESL classes
- Member of Composition Committee; Department of English
 - Materials development
 - Teacher training

Background: My Doctoral Committee

My doctoral committee:

- Prof. An Cheng: Genre studies; L2 writing
- Prof. Dennis Preston: Sociolinguistics; folk linguistics
- Prof. Gene Halleck: Language testing; SLA
- Prof. Ravi Sheorey: L2 reading (passed away in 2013)

The committee: Formed in early 2013

Background: My Adviser

- Prof. An Cheng

<https://english.okstate.edu/pages/41-an-cheng>

- Formation of my doctoral committee:
 - Personally approached the chair and the committee members in late 2012
 - Exchanged several ideas on L2 writing with Prof. Cheng, my chair
 - Completed the departmental and college paperwork

Dissertation: Timeline

- Topic finalized in late 2013
- Literature review began in August 2014
- Literature review finished in May 2015
- Data collected in the Summer of 2015 (May 2015-August 2015) from 2 Iranian language schools
- Methodology completed in October 2015
- Data analysis completed in December 2015
- Findings and discussion completed in January 2016
- Rough draft submitted in late January 2016
- Final draft completed in February 2016
- Dissertation defended on March 30, 2016

Collaboration with my Adviser: My Dissertation

Prof. Cheng's hands-off approach:

- I was responsible for
 - Picking my topic of my dissertation;
 - Picking my methodology, although I received feedback on the details from my doctoral committee;
 - Collecting my data based on the committee's feedback;
 - Analyzing the data (my interview data are in Farsi);
 - Translating the data to English.

Collaboration with my Adviser: My Dissertation

- I received extensive help with
 - Developing the coding scheme;
 - Utilizing interview excerpts to corroborate the codes;
 - Writing up the discussion and conclusion sections;
 - Working on the pedagogical implications of the research findings.
- Therefore:
 - My adviser was familiar with my data and findings.

Collaboration with my Adviser: Our Publications

- Our meeting during the 2018 AAAL
- Prof. Cheng's extensive experience in L2 topics because of his expertise:
 - Editorial Panel Member of the journal *Applied Linguistics*
 - Editorial Board Member of the journal *English for Specific Purposes*
 - Editorial Board Member of *Journal of Second Language Writing*
- Prof. Cheng agreed to work on publications with me:
 - My research areas were close to his areas of research interests;
 - He was familiar with my background, data, and research findings.

Collaboration with my Adviser: Our Publications

- My share of the work:
 - Going over my dissertation data to devise a plan to use those data efficiently in several manuscripts;
 - Writing up the manuscripts;
 - Ensuring that the manuscripts were prepared for a few target journals.
- Prof. Cheng's share of the work:
 - Providing extensive feedback on the manuscripts;
 - Working with me on the subsequent revisions of the manuscripts.

Collaboration with my Adviser: Our Publications

Our collaboration on publications and presentations has resulted in:

Saeli, H., & Cheng, A. (under second review). Discrepancies in teachers' perceptions and reported practices: The case of written feedback in an EFL context. *European Journal of Applied Linguistics*.

Saeli, H., & Cheng, A. (under review). Peer Feedback, learners' engagement, and L2 writing development: The case of test-preparation classes. *Language Teaching Research*.

Saeli, H., & Cheng, A. (under review). What motivates teachers' written feedback practices? Exploring the relative importance of several factors. *L2 Journal*.

Collaboration with my Adviser: Our Publications

Saeli, H., & Cheng, A. (2019). Effects of L1 writing experiences on L2 writing perceptions: Evidence from an English as a foreign language context. *Reading & Writing Quarterly*, 35, 509-524.

Saeli, H., & Cheng, A. (2019). Student writers' affective engagement with grammar-centered written corrective feedback: The impact of (mis)aligned practices and perceptions. *Canadian Journal of Applied Linguistics*, 22(2), 109-132.

L1 writing experiences and L2 writing perceptions: Is there a relationship? (2019). Paper presented at *Symposium on Second Language Writing (SSLW)*; Tempe, AZ (with An Cheng).

Collaboration with my Adviser on Publications: Take-home Messages

- *You* should approach your adviser.
- *You* should take the initiative when it comes to proposing ideas.
- Your adviser and you should have a clear understanding of your roles during the publication process:
 - Who should be in charge of finding the target journals?
 - Who should be in charge of finishing the manuscript based on the guidelines of these target journals?
 - Does your adviser prefer to see only the completed manuscript? Or every completed section one by one?
 - Who should be in charge of submitting the manuscripts to the target journals?
 - Who should be the “corresponding author”?

Collaboration with my Adviser on Publications: Take-home Messages

- Your adviser and you should work on a manageable timeline when working on the manuscripts:
 - How long should you spend on writing up the manuscripts?
 - How long should your adviser take when providing feedback?
 - What is your backup plan if your manuscript gets rejected?
 - Which new journals should you target when your manuscript get rejected? Most journals have an in-house initial review which helps expedite the process of receiving a decision;
 - Who will find new target journals?
 - How will you use the feedback you received after the rejection of your manuscript?
 - How long should you work on the revisions before submitting the manuscript to a new journal?

Thank you!

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<https://english.utk.edu/people/hooman-saeli/>