

Codifying pragmatic features in Macau English

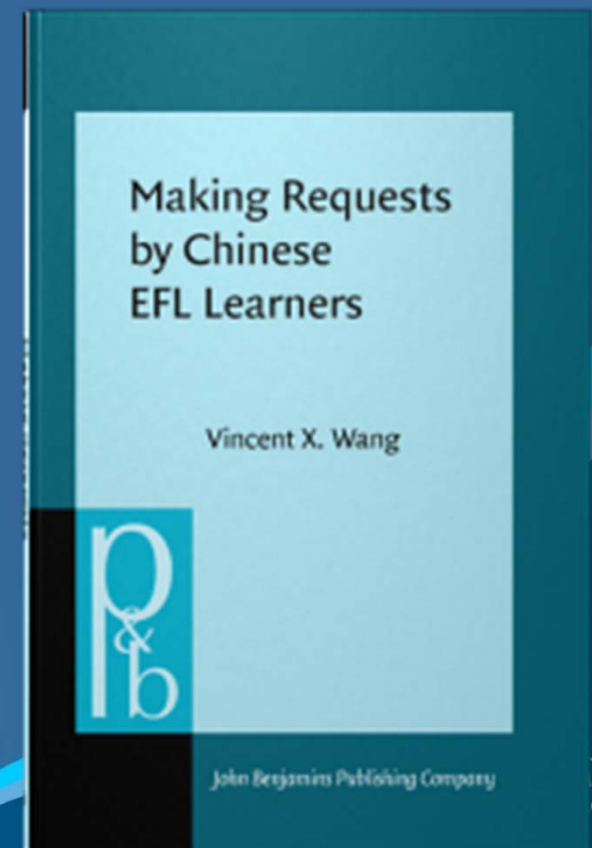
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Introduction

- A Chinese variety of English?
- Pragmatic features
- Macao college students' requests in English: two scenarios



Introduction

We attempt to:

- a) **codify** students' pragmatic behaviour
- b) cast light on students' identity and the model for EFL learning



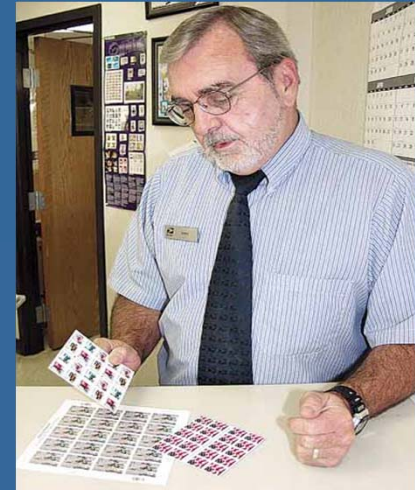
Discourse completion task

Scenario 1 (*post*):

You enter a post office to mail a letter to New York. Your letter is heavy, and needs to be weighed and stamped. What are you going to say to the cashier?

“I want...”, *“Can you...”* (students)

“I need...”, *“I would like...”* (NS)



Scenario 2 (*'police'*):



You park your car in a 5-minute temporary parking zone in a busy commercial area and go to buy some take-away food. You run a bit late as you have to queue in the take-away shop. When you come back to your car, to your horror, you see an officer is about to issue a ticket to your car. You know this will cost you dearly and want to persuade him to withdraw the ticket. What are you going to say?



the 'police' scenario:

"Give me a break" (NS)

"Don't give me a ticket" (NS)

"Can/Could you give me a chance?" (students)

"Please give me a chance" (students)



findings

Chinese college students in Macau:

- tend to be more *direct*
- use syntactically *simpler* modifications
- *Chinese-flavoured* expressions



native norms?

Useful references/resources:

- e.g., *give me a break*,
- e.g., *I need to*, *I'll have* (dish name)

Chinese-flavoured expressions:

- e.g., *I want to*



identity?

- distinct, non-native-speakers
- discursive, 'bricolage'
- native norms are relevant for L2 identity formation



Thank You!

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Q & A



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