



**Title of Project:**

The Role of Socially-mediated Alignment in the Development of Second Language Grammar and Vocabulary: Comparing Face-to-face and Synchronous Mobile-mediated Communication

**Researcher:**

YeonJoo Jung  
Georgia State University  
[yjung9@gsu.edu](mailto:yjung9@gsu.edu)



YeonJoo Jung

**Research Supervisor:**

Dr. YouJin Kim  
Georgia State University

---

**Project Summary:**

Over recent years, an increasing number of second language (L2) studies have investigated the utility of linguistic alignment for promoting L2 development, primarily from interactionist's perspectives (e.g., Trofimovich, McDonough, & Neumann, 2013). Linguistic alignment is a psycholinguistic phenomenon that causes speakers to adjust their language patterns to those of their conversation partners (Wang, Reitter, & Yen, 2014). Substantial evidence has demonstrated that alignment occurring while L2 learners carry out collaborative tasks may lead to L2 development, highlighting the benefits of using alignment tasks for L2 learning (e.g., Jung, Kim, & Murphy, forthcoming). So far most attention has focused on the use of alignment tasks in the face-to-face (FTF) mode, and little is known about the occurrence of linguistic alignment and its impact on L2 learning in various interactional contexts, such as mobile text-chat settings.

This study aims to examine the pedagogical benefits of alignment tasks for the development of L2 vocabulary and grammar in two different interactional contexts: FTF and synchronous mobile-mediated communication (SMMC). SMMC refers to real-time communication between people made possible via mobile phones (Dixon, 2011). A pretest-posttest control group design will be used to assess the effects of alignment tasks on Korean EFL learners' vocabulary and grammar acquisition in the two settings. Findings of the study will provide insight into the role of different modalities of interaction (FTF and SMMC) on the occurrence and magnitude of alignment as well as L2 learning outcomes from the alignment tasks.