

Linguistic attitudes of Lithuanian and Chinese university students towards their mother tongue and English



Kristina Jakaitė-Bulbukienė
kristina.bulbukiene@flf.vu.lt
Vilnius University, Lithuania

21st Annual Conference of Applied Linguistics,
18–19 April 2024, Tallinn, Estonia



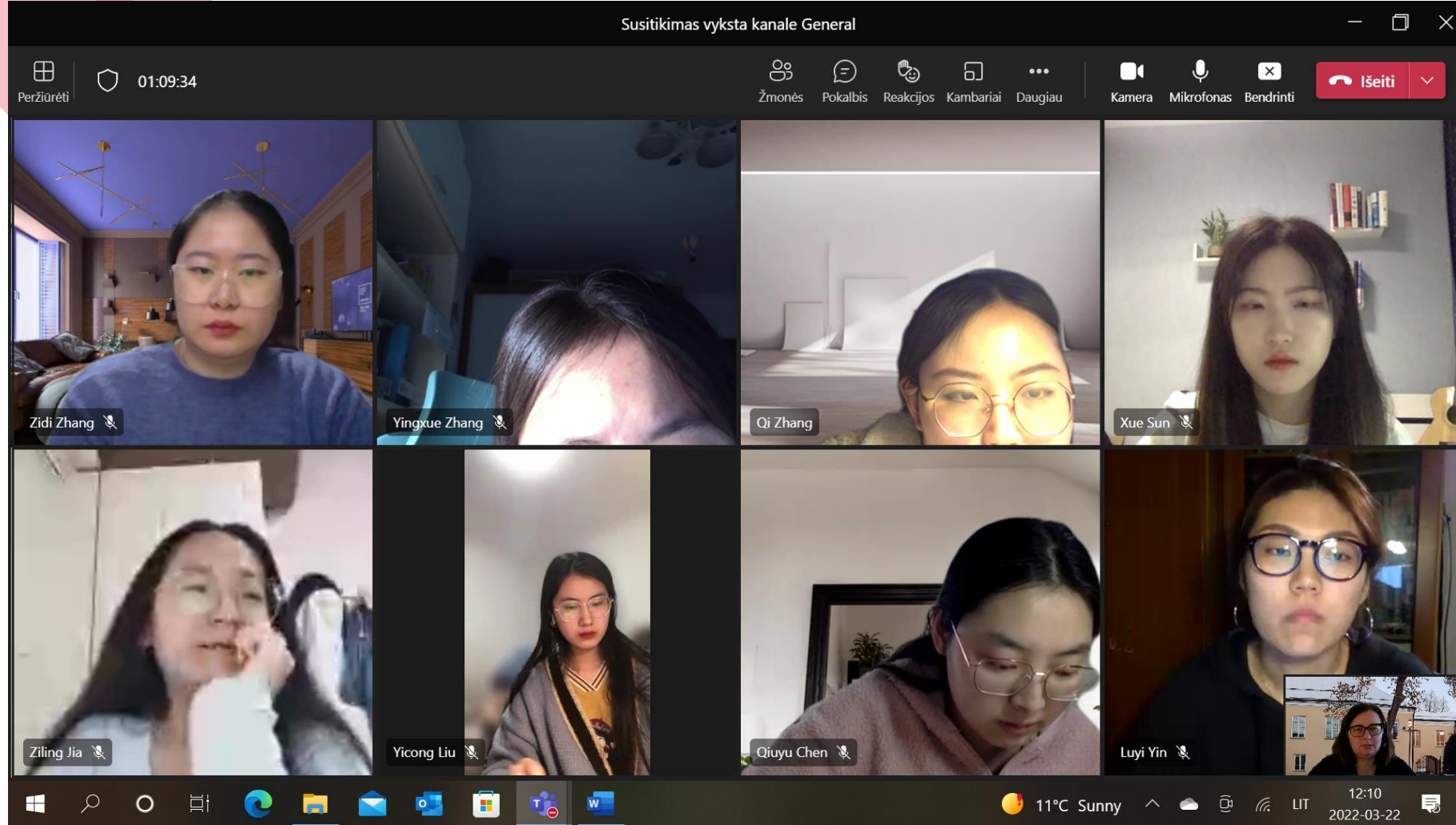
Research aim:

to compare linguistic attitudes of Lithuanian and Chinese students towards their mother tongue and English.

Material:

quantitative survey about linguistic attitudes, language use and learning of 111 Lithuanian and 124 Chinese 18-43 years old students.

It was collected online in 2022 through social networks of students in Lithuania and China.



**Students of
BISU and VU:
Chen Qiuyu
Jia Ziling
Yin Luyi
Guo Yuxuan
Zhang Zidi
Zhang Yingxue
Liu Yicong
Zhang Qi
Sun Xue**

Thank you!

**„[a]n attitude is an evaluative orientation to a social object of some sort, whether it is a language, or a new government policy, etc. And, as a ‘disposition’, an attitude can be seen as having a degree of stability that allows it to be identified.“
(Garrett 2010: 20)**

„Suffice it to say for our present purposes that we learn attitudes, and that we do this through a variety of means <...>. Two important sources of attitudes are our personal experiences and our social environment, including the media.“ (Garrett 2010: 22)

„In the life of a language attitudes to that language appear to be important in the language restoration, preservation, decay or death. <...> A survey of attitudes provides an indicator of current community thoughts, and beliefs, preferences and desires.“ (Baker 1992: 9)

**„The status, value and importance of a language is most often and easily (though imperfectly) measured by attitudes by that language.“
(Baker 1992: 10)**

„A classical explication of attitude and distinguish between the cognitive, affective and readiness for action.“ (Baker 1992: 12)



Linguistic attitudes towards mother tongue

Lithuanian students:
'difficult and complicated',
'beautiful',
'very old'.

Chinese students:
'a long and deep history',
'beautiful',
'very old'.



Most beautiful language in the word

Lithuanian students:
33% Lithuanian,
19% French,
Italian, Spanish, Latin...
These languages sounds beautiful.

Chinese students:
Chinese.
It is our mother tongue.

There is no English among these languages.

Linguistic attitudes towards English



Lithuanian students:

- 86% most useful foreign language;
- study English at university and on their own;
- English will help to get a better job, to get a better education and to have a more interesting leisure time.

Linguistic attitudes towards English

Chinese students:

- 60% most useful foreign language;
- study English because it is compulsory in the curriculum, want to pass the English exam better and to get a better education;
- study English at university and with a private tutor;
- Chinese is enough in China.





21% of Chinese students and
46% of Lithuanian students
strongly agree and agree
with the following statement



**I don't think it's necessary to
learn other foreign languages,
because English is enough.**



12% of Chinese students and
27% of Lithuanian students
strongly agree and agree
with the following statement



**I feel that English is a threat
to my mother tongue.**



Conclusions