

## University of Groningen

### Foreign language classroom anxiety

Jin, Yinxing

**IMPORTANT NOTE: You are advised to consult the publisher's version (publisher's PDF) if you wish to cite from it. Please check the document version below.**

*Document Version*

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

*Publication date:*

2016

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

*Citation for published version (APA):*

Jin, Y. (2016). *Foreign language classroom anxiety: A study of Chinese university students of Japanese and English over time*. University of Groningen.

**Copyright**

Other than for strictly personal use, it is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

**Take-down policy**

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

*Downloaded from the University of Groningen/UMCG research database (Pure): <http://www.rug.nl/research/portal>. For technical reasons the number of authors shown on this cover page is limited to 10 maximum.*

## **Acknowledgements**

Doing a PhD is rewarding, but challenging. Confusion, frustration, and anxiety were present over the whole trajectory, with pleasure being sporadic. Without many people's sympathy, encouragement, and support, this project would not have come to a delightful end. I owe these people a debt of gratitude.

First of all, I want to thank my promoter, Prof. Dr. Kees de Bot, for accepting me as a PhD student at the University of Groningen. Then in the next years, you have always been supportive by quickly responding to my questions/writings, sometimes late at night or very early in the morning, as well as arranging a meeting whenever I requested. I admire your openness. When discussing whether the Dynamic System Theory (DST) that you have favored over the years should be introduced in the dissertation, you told me "The DST is not religion. People are free to decide whether they trust it or not". You have provided valuable input that helped me to develop this PhD project and to solve all kinds of problems pertaining to data analysis and thesis writing. I thoroughly enjoyed the meetings with you. On several occasions, I walked along the streets of Groningen following our meetings instead of immediately returning to office, as I felt energetic. William Arthur Ward says, "The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires". You are a great teacher.

Dr. Merel Keijzer, my daily supervisor, has always carefully read my writings and provided insightful comments. I adore your wisdom and wonder how you can discern such minute mistakes/inaccuracies in my writings, for instance suggesting a change from dependence to (in)dependence. Our meetings at 10:45 a.m. on Monday have been productive, in which we went through the responses to reviewers and discussed the confusions I had. June 2015 turned out to be a difficult month. I became neurotic and began doubting a lot in the dissertation, owing to the pressure from resubmitting the manuscript to the reading committee, so I kept bothering you with trivial questions. You were patient all the time to

answer my questions. I thank you for all the encouragements and suggestions you have given. Otherwise, it would be extremely difficult to accomplish this PhD project.

Other staff members in the Applied Linguistics department of the University of Groningen have also taken care of me: Prof. Dr. Marjolijn Verspoor, Dr. Mik van Es, Dr. Wander Lowie, and Dr. Hanneke Loerts. Mik has still backed me up with his expertise in Statistics even after his retirement. My thanks also extend to my MA supervisor, Prof. Dr. Feng Yuan, for encouraging me to pursue a PhD and generously giving her advice when it was hard to make decisions; Dr. Fu Ning for the favors she offered during data collection, and Dr. Xu Xiaoyan for instructing me on data analysis.

I am grateful towards three privileged researchers in the field of foreign language anxiety, Prof. Dr. Elaine Horwitz, Prof. Dr. Peter MacIntyre, and Prof. Dr. Jean-Marc Dewaele, for being willing to constitute the reading committee, reserving time to read the manuscript, and sharing their expertise by offering valuable comments. I feel honored and proud that I have had such an expert reading committee.

I also want to thank some of my PhD fellows in Linguistics at the University of Groningen: Nienke, Anna, Giang, Sabrina, Kirsten, Audrey, Hong, Camila, Dieke, and Simon. We had lots of cheerful talks at parties, group meetings, and/or lunch time. Chinese friends in the Netherlands have made my Dutch life less lonely and boring. It is such a pleasure to have known you guys: Peng Peng, Zhang Ji, Sun Jing, Han Jiaying, Lei Yu, Shao Jinfeng, Li Hongyan, Duan Cong, Duan Yiping, Yan Xingyu, Zhang Yang, Suriguga, Wang Peng, Liu Jiehai, Wang Ronghua, Wu Suwei, Yang Yang, Chen Min, Zhu Qihan. Friends in China assisted me with data collection/questionnaire translation: Lu Kewei, Han Ruili, Li Jianqun, Xu Qihao, Liu Haitao, Yang Yi.

Finally, I want to express my special thanks to my wife, Jiang Nan. You have constantly stood by me through the years. Without your encouragements and support, I

**iv**

definitely would not have a chance to do a PhD abroad. No wife, no husband! Jin Shunzhe (Chenchen), my lovely son, sorry for not being around you these years. You have been in my dreams so many times in the last three years. Daddy loves you and will always stay with you from now on.