

## Acquisition of Negation in English by a Chinese Immigrant

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### ABSTRACT

*This article is concerned with the sequence development in acquisition of negation by a Chinese speaker. Frequency analysis is given to show the development of each negative device in each period, and comparison is made with negation in the speech of the second-language learner and with that of first-language learner. Both similarities and differences can be seen. However, one thing is for certain that there is a common grammar at particular stages of language development, more or less regardless of L1 or L2. Implications to pedagogy reveal that teaching and learning should work with rather than against natural process, only by which can teaching and learning be effective.*

### INTRODUCTION

As a language teacher, it is necessary to know how mind works and how language is acquired and organized in brain. Also it is essential to be well informed about the field research so that instructors can adopt proper approaches and methods and further develop a research agenda for language pedagogy. Negation, a complex phenomenon, carries much weight in semantic development which indicates the natural processing of language and has always been an important issue in second language acquisition research.

Extensive studies have been done on the acquisition of negation by both native speakers of English as well as by speakers of other