

Second-generation Hmong Americans' Self-confidence and Self-perceived Competency Communicating in English in a Variety of Settings



MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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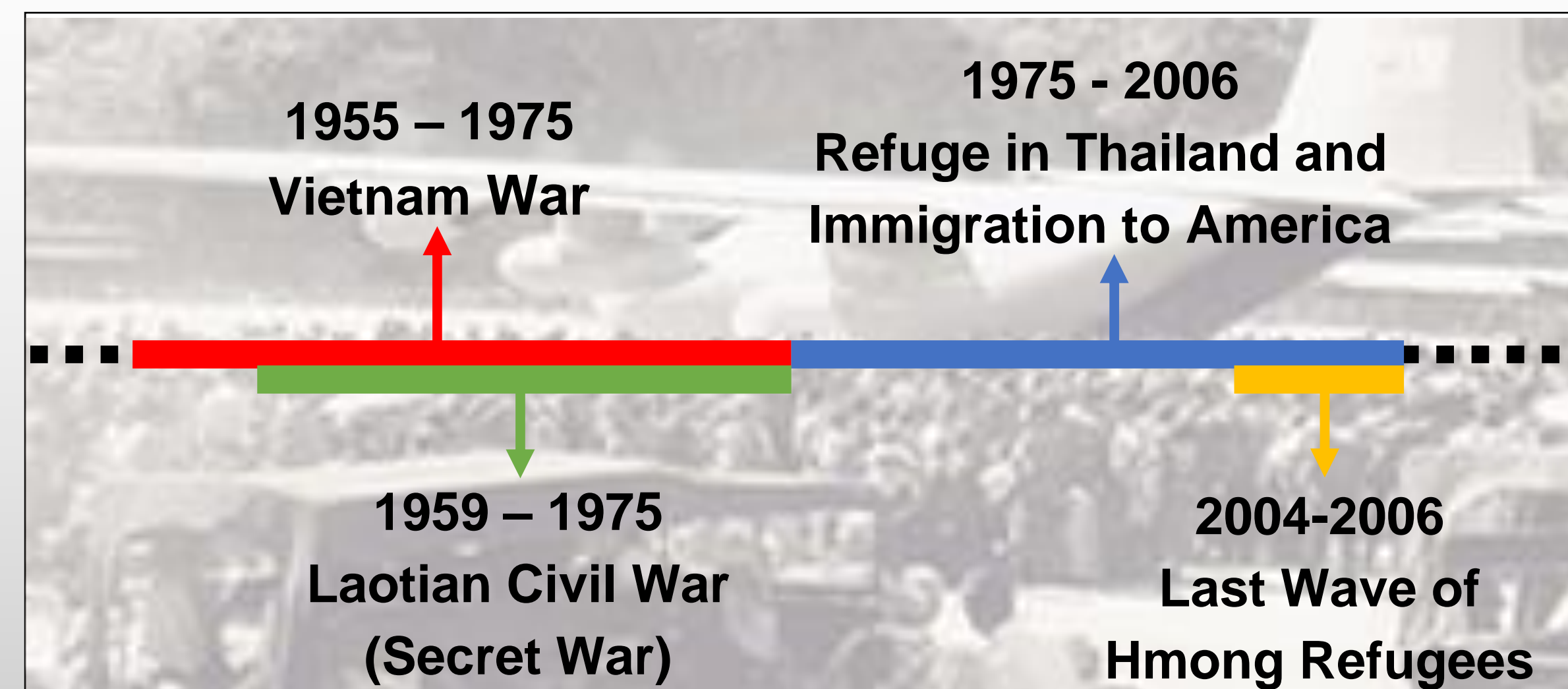
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Communication Sciences and Disorders

Background

History of the Hmong people



Previous research

- Cultural and language loss in Hmong Americans (Ito, 2020); (Yang Xiong, 2019); (Xiong-Lor, 2015)
- Microaggression experiences within school system (Kwan, 2015)
- Willingness to communicate in L2 (Aoyama & Takahashi, 2020)

Research Questions

1. How do second generation Hmong Americans self-confidence in speaking English differentiate in different settings?
2. How do second generation Hmong Americans perceive their level of English competency in different settings?
3. How do second-generation Hmong Americans feel about the language shift to becoming more English dominant and the terms associated with this shift such as Hmonglish?

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Methods

Mixed-methods

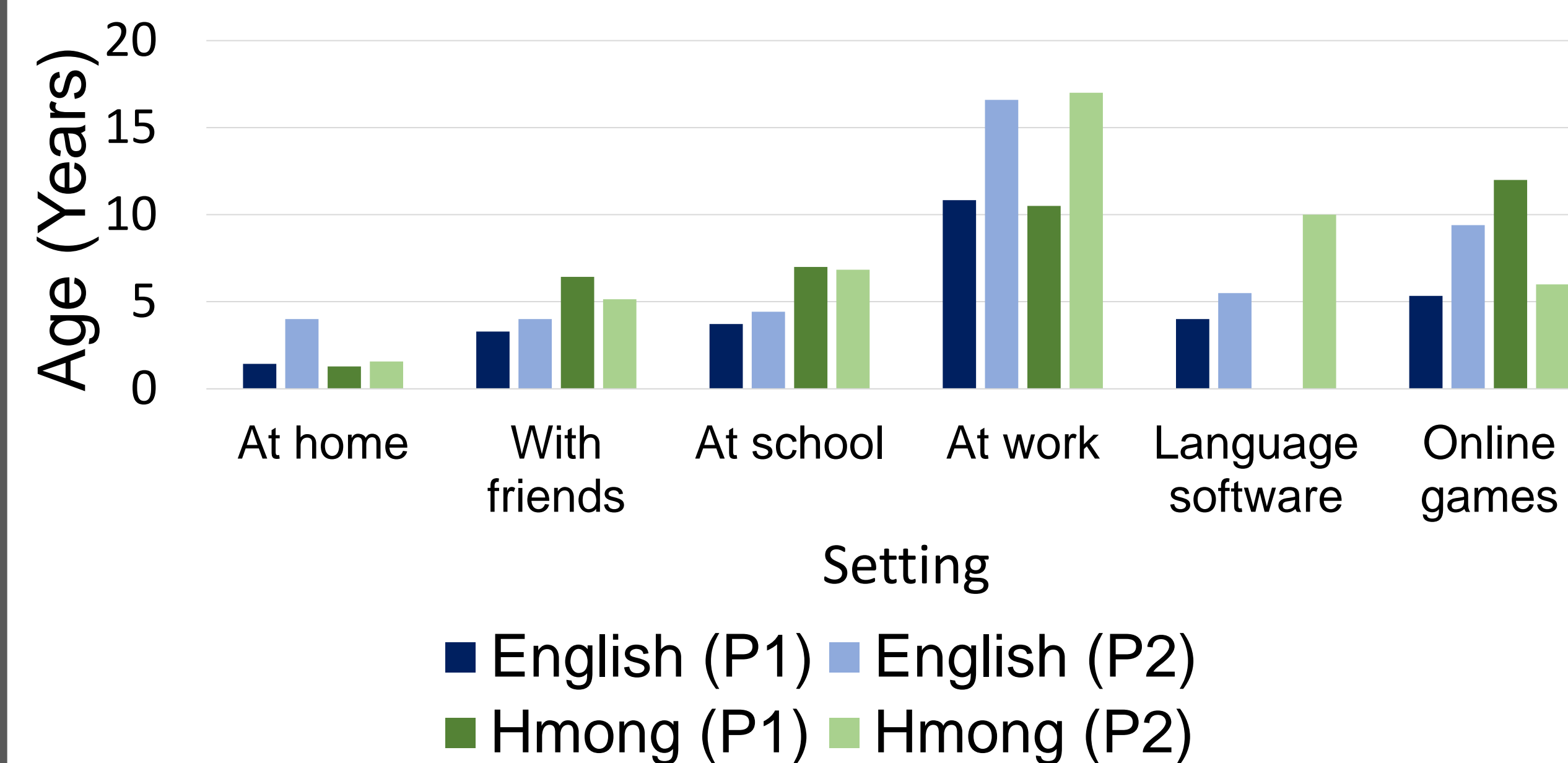
1. Language Background History Survey (Li etc., 2020)
2. 20-minute interview
 - Bilingual Language Profile (Birdsong, 2012)
 - Language Experience & Proficiency Questionnaire (LEAP-Q) (Marian et al., 2007)
 - Quantifying Bilingual EXperience (Q-BEx) (De Cat et al., 2022)

Participants

- 15 second generation Hmong Americans (12 females, 3 males)
- Age Range: 18-27

Division One	Division Two
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on L1 • L1 Hmong: 12 • L1 English: 3 	Based on age of English acquisition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (P1) Birth – 3 years: 8 • (P2) 4 – 5 years: 7

Age English and Hmong Introduced in Different Settings



Thematic Analysis

Five Themes

1. **Experience speaking and learning English and Hmong**
 - Home: 8 learned English/Hmong simultaneously, 7 learned Hmong and then English
 - Current home usage: mix English/Hmong
 - School: used English only, Hmong on occasion with Hmong friends
2. **Cultural Identity**
 - 9 American culture, 1 Hmong culture, 5 mix of both American and Hmong

"I am proud of my roots too; I speak my own native language. However, because I mostly speak English at home, I can't really say if I'm... part of like English or Hmong. But I am really proud ... to be like bilingual."

-Cherry

3. Language Preferences in Various Settings

- Parent: P1 – no strong preference for Hmong/English, P2 – strong preference for Hmong
- Friends: strong preference for English
- Personal: strong preference for English, only using Hmong with close friends and family

4. Self-confidence and willingness to communicate in English and Hmong in various settings

	English	Hmong
Formal	"mildly confident" to "confident" "mostly willing" to "willing"	"not confident" to "comfortable, but not confident" "maybe" to "somewhat willing"
Informal	"moderately confident" to "confident" "willing" to "very willing"	"somewhat confident" to "confident" "willing" to "very willing"

"I would be a lot more comfortable speaking in English compared to Hmong... they've taught it [English] in school, and you know, like they help prepare us professionally to speak better in English, like even just thinking about writing essays, they make us speak more eloquently. But in Hmong, I would say that I wasn't necessarily taught in different ways to speak in different environments."

-Winnie

5. "Hmonglish"

- Very positive outlook
- Language perseverance vs competency

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