

## **Neural Bases of Language: A Comparative study of Chinese and English**

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Half a century ago, William S-Y Wang published his seminal work entitled “The Chinese Language” in *Scientific American* (1973). In that article, he investigated the historical development and the unique features of the Chinese language, hypothesizing that “since Chinese does differ from the European languages in fundamental respects, some knowledge of its structure and historical development is indispensable to a general understanding of the nature of human language” (p. 53). His insightful analysis of the characteristics of the Chinese language and his hypothesis have since then played a leading role in multidisciplinary research on Chinese. In this talk, I will summarize recent neuroimaging findings of Chinese reading in contrast to reading in alphabetic languages, which provide strong empirical evidence for Wang’s hypothesis.