

The bell has just tolled the hour. It is 11pm now. I have just got back from the library. After having a cup of tea, I am happy to find time to write my personal statement.

If asked to describe myself in the briefest way, I'd say: a keen language learner. I've been studying the ancient Chinese for over 15 years, English 11 years, Spanish 3 years, and French and Japanese, each for a semester. Linguistics being my primary interest and sole concern in my life, Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU), China's leading institution in language teaching and linguistics studies, is where I come from.

Majoring in English, I currently rank within the top five students among 90 peers in the department. Given that my first year GPA was only mediocre, the progress I've made is truly remarkable. More important, I have studied Linguistics in a broad range that goes beyond the knowledge covered in class. Generally I regard language study as the center of my interests and explore its interface with peripheral areas, such as sociology, psychology and philosophy.

Initially attracted to General Linguistics, I audited classes in the graduate program of Linguistics at BFSU when I was a sophomore and became an avid student in subjects such as lexis, semantics, syntax, and morphology. Among all my readings, it is William Labov's early work on class-based variation in the speech of New York and elsewhere that impressed me most, which compelled me to delve deeper into the field of Sociolinguistics. Last semester, I worked as a research assistant to Professor Qian Qiang at Beijing University in Conversation Analysis. Currently I am working on two research papers, namely, 'Age as a non-linguistic variable' and 'Conversation analysis of online students at BFSU'. Forever exploring new horizons, I also study Second Language Acquisition, based on my professional experiences.

My professional experiences began as an International News Editor in the Beijing Television Station in April 2001. My main responsibility back then was to translate and edit English news into Chinese news format and to dub the English news. In July 2001, I joined the Beijing Global Translation and Consulting Company setup by Yang Lixin, Professor of English with BFSU. Our translation group in the company currently research in the field of Translation Method, or more specifically, Translation of Insurance English to Chinese and related Quantitative Methods. Besides, I am a Teaching Assistant in the Institute of Online Education at BFSU, designing and hosting the online oral English class every week.

These experiences have nourished passionate love of languages in my heart since a long time ago. It is my belief that humans need to study language more. I appreciate that saying from French anthropologist Levi Strauss, "To say language is to say society." Linguistics is such a subject that is never isolated from other subjects, and instead, it is a unified one that goes beyond the realms of culture and generation. It can reach the soul of wit. It is my great honor that I have had it as a faithful company for all these years.

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My personal objective is to attain a Ph.D in Linguistics and to become an expert in this field so as to contribute to the development of linguistics as a discipline in Chinese universities and colleges. I'd highly appreciate your favorable consideration on my application, and it is my cherished dream that some day, when asked to describe myself in the briefest way, I can proudly say: I am a linguist.

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