Overview

- History of language attrition
- What is SEM? Why is it?
- The general SEM model
- My hypothesised model

My own research
History of language attrition

- What is language attrition? forgetting temporarily or losing permanently?
- What kind of language attrition? first or second or foreign language attrition?
- History of language attrition hypotheses proposed → hypotheses tested
My own research

- English language retention or attrition by Chinese university-level learners.
  Why Chinese? Why English?

- The research question--whether the subjects’ English proficiency will change or not due to no or little contact with it.
  If so (not), what are the possible contribution factors?
My own research – experiment design

- A longitudinal study: 3 times investigation

- Test instruments: an questionnaire
  English proficiency tests
What is SEM?

- SEM is a modern multivariate statistical technique, which allows a set of relationships to be examined simultaneously.
- It takes a confirmatory, rather than exploratory, approach to the data analysis.
- Researchers specify a hypothesised model based on an examination of literature and then submit the model to be empirically tested.
Why is SEM?

- Measurement error in the process of model building can be identified, estimated and then removed.
- By estimating and removing measurement error, the reliability of multiple indicators can be explicitly calculated within the analysis.
- Instead of testing the hypothesised relationships one by one, all the relationships among the model are tested simultaneously.
The general SEM model
Basic composition
The hypothesised model