

1. Although, the existence of age effects is generally accepted, many researchers have attempted to show that even though children are achieving a more native-like proficiency in L2, adult L2 learners still have a chance to achieve success in some aspects of SLA. One of the most popular assumptions holds: “older is better for rate of acquisition, younger is better in the long run” (Krashen, Long & Scarcella, 1979, p. 573).

2. In fact, most elderly Chinese immigrants start to learn an L2 at an advanced age without any previous English learning experience. Thus, it is difficult for them to ever achieve a high-level attainment in L2. As suggested by Muñoz and Singleton (2011), “different areas of language (phonology, syntax, lexicon, etc.) have different critical ages associated with them” (p. 8).