

Forum for Linguistic Studies

https://journals.bilpubgroup.com/index.php/fls

ARTICLE

EFL Teachers' Motivation of Professional Development at the University Level in China

Miaomiao Wang¹, Yongxiang Wang^{1,*}^(D), Rong Jiang^{1,2}

¹Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing 210024, China ²WanJiang University of Technology, Anhui 243031, China

ABSTRACT

The motivation of instructors has been found to have a significant impact on students' enthusiasm to learn a second language, but less attention has been paid to the motivation of English Foreign Language (EFL) teachers, especially in the Chinese environment where English plays a significant role. In order to lay the groundwork for the formulation of suggestions on how to increase teacher motivation and consequently boost the standard of instruction and student performance, this study explores the motivation of English instructors at the university level in China. 203 native Chinese EFL instructors who are currently employed at institutions in China's mainland participated in the study. The motivation of EFL instructors for selecting a profession in teaching and the elements influencing that motivation was investigated using a quantitative approach design. For the purpose of evaluating the level of English writing skills of EFL instructors, a survey with close-ended questions that was founded on theories of motivation and modified from earlier research was utilized as the instrument. Then proportion, frequency, mean, and statistic tests were used to analyze the survey data. The findings indicate that the EFL instructors had a variety of motivations for deciding to work as teachers, with intrinsic motivation being the primary driver, followed by altruistic motivations like wanting to support English education in their own countries. The findings also showed that a variety of factors, such as positive student feedback, personal happiness, and a solid wage, had an impact on the motivation of EFL teachers. Demotivating variables were discovered to be extrinsic, such as poor pay and few other sources of money, uncomfortable working circumstances, and students' unfavorable attitudes. Keywords: EFL teachers; Higher Education; Career motivation; Motivation; Level of motivation; English teaching

*CORRESPONDING AUTHOR:

Yongxiang Wang, Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing 210024, China; Email: nshdyxwang@163.com

ARTICLE INFO

Received: 16 March 2024 | Revised: 15 April 2024 | Accepted: 26 April 2024 | Published Online: 26 August 2024 https://doi.org/10.30564/fls.v6i3.6666

CITATION

Wang M., Wang Y., Jiang R., 2024. EFL Teachers' Motivation of Professional Development at the University Level in China..Forum for Linguistic Studies. 6(3): 777-787. DOI: https://doi.org/10.30564/fls.v6i3.6666

COPYRIGHT

Copyright License:Copyright © 2024 by the author(s). Published by Bilingual Publishing Co. This is an open access article under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International (CC BY-NC 4.0) License (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/).

1. Introduction

The globe has transformed into a global village due to the ever-increasing degree of globalization in the twentyfirst century. Because of this, individuals need to speak the same language to preserve friendly connections. Additionally, maintaining worldwide contacts in the sectors of commerce, science, media, and other industries calls for the use of a globally recognized language. Considering such, the English language has a special place and has developed into a language that is widely used and well-established in the aforementioned sectors and worldwide (Rao, 2019). China has joined the global community via commerce and communication as a rapidly modernizing nation. As a result, English's status as a lingua franca in China has grown throughout the years (Simpson, 2017; Si, 2019). English is now indispensable for all levels of school from basic to higher education and has become a key component of teaching programs throughout the nation. Some discipline courses are taught in both Chinese and English at many mainstream schools and universities, according to studies by Hu (2005) and Gao and Wang (2016). In addition to Chinese, English in China is the topic that requires the greatest study hours throughout the course of a student's education.

Over the past decades, studies on teachers' work happiness and motivation often study individual demographic factors (e.g., Brookhart and Freeman, 1992; Watt and Richardson, 2008; Karavas, 2010; Zhang, Wu, and Zhu, 2020), and the findings show certain trends and correlations in terms of teachers' job satisfaction. Additionally, Watt and Richardson's (2008) research of secondary and primary teacher students in Australia found that age was a poor predictor of profession choice. In other words, older individuals were more likely to remain in the teaching profession after graduation, while younger participants were more likely to pursue other careers. In research examining the motivation of preservice CSL (Chinese as a Second Language) instructors, Zhang et al. (2020) provide support for this conclusion. In one study, the motivation of EFL instructors at a Chinese institution is examined, along with their degree of motivation and motivating factors (Ma, 2012). The motivation of EFL instructors at the university level is examined in studies by Karavas (2010), who examined elements that affect motivation and the causes of teachers' professional development.

Compared to previous research that only examined one

or two areas of teacher motivation in professional growth, to fill the gap, this study aims to provide a more complete picture of EFL instructors' motivation in the professional development of the Chinese setting by assessing English language competency and other personal background factors including gender, age, and academic experience, in addition to foreign experience, EFL instructors' motivational factors are also investigated. After knowing college teachers' motivations and their internal realization in teacher professionalism, many teacher training programs would goal-oriented and effective. The findings may expand teachers' motivation and emotion regulation theories to L2 teacher education.

As a result, this study's importance is both theoretical and empirical. Theoretically, as was previously said, motivation among language teachers has received little consideration (Aydin, 2012; Hastings, 2012; Tsutsumi, 2014). Despite the crucial role that teacher motivation plays in achieving professional development goals in language learning, there is a dearth of research on the subject (Sugino, 2010). Additionally, there is a huge research vacuum, particularly for the Chinese setting, since there aren't many studies on EFL teacher motivation.

2. Literature review

2.1 Concepts of teacher motivation

A clear description of teacher motivation is challenging due to its complexity. It can be argued, however, that this is the type of drive that teachers have for their work; "it is synonymous with work motivation" (Hastings, 2012), which clarifies a person's willingness to put forth and maintain an effort for behaviors related to their place of employment (Deressa and Zeru, 2019). In addition to "integrative" and "instrumental" characteristics, teacher motivation may also show traits referred to as "intrinsic" and "extrinsic". According to Dörnyei (2005), teacher motivation is similar to other forms of motivation, hence generic models of motivation can be applied to describe it. As a result, in terms of education, motivation for teachers explains why educators choose to pursue a career in teaching as well as how long and how diligently they are prepared to work at it. This is consistent with Sinclair's (2008) interpretation of teacher motivation. According to Sinclair (2008), what draws people to instruction, how long they stay in the field, and the degree of engagement

they have with it are all influenced by teacher motivation. The four parts of teacher motivation are as follows, according to Dörnvei (2005): (1) an inherent component, (2) contextual elements, (3) the dimension of time, and (4) adverse impacts. The term "intrinsic component" refers to the pleasure and delight instructors have in their work as well as the intrinsic benefits they receive. There are macro and micro contextual influences. The macro-level is connected to external social influences, but the micro-level is more intimately connected to the organisation and learning settings where the educator operates, such as the culture and norms of the school. According to Dörnyei (2005), motivation for teachers includes both the desire to teach and the desire to pursue teaching as a job for the rest of one's life. Stress, limited autonomy, a lack of self-efficacy, a lack of mental challenge, and an inappropriate career structure are all harmful factors (Dörnyei, 2005). Other academics that share a similar perspective on teacher motivation include Dowson and McInerney (2003) and McInerney, Maehr, and Dowson (2004). These authors contend that there are three components to teacher motivation: attraction, retention, and focus. They determine "what draws people to teaching, the amount of time they stay in their first education as teachers and ultimately become teachers, and the degree that they interact with their education and the teaching profession," in other words. Michaelowa (2002) described teacher motivation as the "willingness, desire or drive to take part in good teaching." In this context, "good teaching" refers to upholding professional standards and making every effort to support student learning to the best of one's capacity (Guajardo, 2011).

Scholars have also sought to define teacher motivation in a Chinese setting. Positive attitudes and behaviours displayed when teaching are the unique components of teaching motivation, according to Zhong et al. (1999). Teacher motivation drives educators to advance continuously in their careers, defines their level of devotion, and affects their mindsets towards teaching and behaviour in the classroom. Li (1988), on the opposite hand, contends that instructors' own drives and wants, which are crucial to teaching, are the source of their motivation. Tang (1984) asserts that the amount of time and energy instructors invest in the teaching process is a good indicator of their motivation. The explanations of teacher motivation presented in the Chinese context are comparable to those presented in the international studies

stated above, which seems to place more emphasis on the teaching process than on the prospect of a career. In summary, the current study summarizes teacher motivation as pragmatic justifications for selecting teaching as a profession and justifications originating from a person's intrinsic drives and wants. Additionally, it affects how instructors behave in the classroom, how they feel about teaching, and how much time and effort they really put into teaching. As a result, and in keeping with the discussion above, two of the stages outlined by Dörnvei (2005)-career motivation and teaching motivation-will be used in the present research to gauge the motivation of EFL teachers. We will look at the instructors' effort and devotion as potential measures of their degree of motivation. Therefore, the dimension of concentration proposed by Dowson and McInerney et al. (2004) can be explained and supported by these indicators.

2.2 Studies on teacher motivation in general education

Research on teacher motivation has gained popularity, particularly in the fields of educational psychology and teacher preparation. Research on teacher motivation has been done on four different topics, according to Han and Yin (2016): reasons for choosing teaching as a career (career motivation), the relationship between teachers' background variables and career motivation, motivational factors for teachers (motivation to teach), and the connection between teacher motivation and student motivation. Additionally, there is research examining the connections between job drive and specific background factors including age and gender. Studies have been done to examine how pre-service teachers' job choices are impacted by their age disparities. It was discovered that older pre-service instructors could comprehend the teaching profession more objectively and realistically than younger pupils. For instance, older student instructors exhibited more pecuniary incentives and motivation for career transfer than their younger colleagues, according to Joseph and Green (1986). Following an investigation into 510 student teachers from three Australian universities, Watt and Richardson (2008) reported similar findings. They discovered that the "highly engaged switchers," who were more likely to have had career plans other than teaching, were younger than the "highly engaged persisters," who intended to devote their entire careers to teaching.

2.3 L2 Teachers' Career Motivation

Similar findings are observed for EFL instructors and general education teachers in terms of the variables affecting teachers' decisions to join the field (Kazerouni and Sadighi, 2014; Koran, 2015). That is, the intrinsic, altruistic, and extrinsic motivations for choosing a profession as an EFL instructor may all be divided into three categories. Altruistic motivation and intrinsic drive are the two most prevalent forms of motivation, according to research. In their 2012 study of pre-service English teachers at a state university in Turkey, Topkaya and Uztosun discovered that the participants' career motivations included both intrinsic values like "liking teaching" and altruistic motivations like "teaching will allow me to shape child and adolescent values." Moreover, the empirical research conducted by Koran (2015) on 37 English teachers from secondary schools and universities who all worked at an Iraqi educational institution revealed that the participants had multiple motivations for choosing to enter the teaching field, with strong intrinsic and altruistic motivations being the main ones. In addition to that, Wang and Wang (2023) explored Chinese EFL teachers' per-ceptions of self-directed professional development and claimed that the most frequent benefits of self-directed professional development were being "needs-based" and "selfdirected", which, in turn, produce "flexibility", "autonomy", and "professional knowledge development" inteachers.

2.4 Language intricacy and motivation among teachers

It is a prevalent belief that L2 instructors who are more fluent in their intended language are more equipped to teach it compared to those that are less skilled. English language proficiency has been discovered as one of the essential qualities of a good English teacher in English as a Second language education (Llurda, 2005; Braine, 2010; Nayernia and Babayan, 2019). L2 English teachers' English language proficiency plays a crucial role in their competence. Moreover, it enables teachers to shape their professional development, which has now moved away from product-oriented courses that only prepare teachers for the pedagogical aspects of their job (Bhatt, 2021). Instead, teachers' motivation is currently seen as an ongoing practice in which teachers are constantly working on their teaching quality and expertise (Wang et al., 2021). Moreover, the connection among emotions, professionalism, and reflectivity of teachers is in accord with the nature of L2 education, which is multi-layered including intrapersonal and interpersonal domains (Wang and Wang, 2023). While several research have examined student language competence, particularly in relation to language complexity (see, for example, Ortega, 2003; Bulté and Housen, 2018), very few have examined L2 teacher competency up to this point. Given this reality, the present research also makes an effort to investigate the relationship between native Chinese undergraduate EFL instructors' English language competency and the reasons they choose to pursue teaching as a profession. Because a questionnaire rather than interviews was utilized to gather the data, the participants' English writing competence rather than their English speaking skill is examined in the present research. Because of the "face" culture, it was thought possible that participants could be unwilling to use English in front of a stranger. The complexity of language at the vocabulary and syntactic levels, which is represented in the participants' responses to open-ended questions, is the focus of the current research. This part analyses earlier lexical and syntactic analyses of English language competency in order to choose the best indices and measurements for the current investigation.

2.5 L2 English teachers' language proficiency and their professional development

The ability to instruct in English as well as understand the subject matter or topic are all examples of an English teacher's competency (Richards, 2017). Richards (2017) adduces that instructors' language competency affects their capacity to instruct in English. The English language competency of teachers has an impact on their professional development, based on the ELT literature. The ability of language learners has previously been assessed using measurements of the complexity of the English language. Instead, it is employed in the current research to gauge how sophisticated the language used in English instructors' questionnaire responses is. These instructors only use English in certain situations, including in the classroom and at international conferences; it is not their first language. Chinese EFL instructors must read and listen to English-language books to keep up their language competence. Here, measures of linguistic complexity are applied to texts authored by university professors

who are native Chinese speakers. Since it is unknown how much teachers' desire for professional development may be connected to their language competence, this is considered an experimental component of the present research.

In conclusion, research on the career motivation of EFL instructors may be split into two groups based on the participants: pre-service teachers and in-service teachers. The examination of the literature reveals that pre-service and in-service instructors, regardless of the setting, have comparable reasons for choosing to become teachers. In other words, rather than being driven only by extrinsic motivation, they are also driven by altruism. According to the pertinent literature, EFL teachers often cited their positive attitudes toward teaching and a positive self-evaluation of their abilities to assist students in learning English as reasons for choosing a career in education. This was done in an effort to support the nation's English education. Specifically, there will be three research questions to be answered:

- a. What drives native Chinese university EFL professors in their pursuit of professional development?
- b. What inspired in-service native Chinese university EFL instructors to choose a career in education?
- c. What motivates native Chinese university EFL teachers to stay in the teaching profession, and how motivated do they perceive themselves to be?

3. Method

3.1 Participants and research setting

This study was employed in the EFL context of China, focusing on the EFL teacher motivation of professional development at the University Level. In this research, participants are split into two groups: (i) 50 native Chinese speakers who teach EFL at universities in the pilot study; and (ii) 203 native Chinese speakers who teach EFL at universities in the main study. The pilot study's 50 native Chinese EFL instructors contributed to the analysis and creation of the online survey. The 203 EFL instructors that participated in the primary research are from various Chinese colleges.

3.2 Instruments

The instrument conducted to gather the data is a questionnaire, including both close-ended questions and a series

of open-ended questions in English. The questionnaire is divided into five sections, starting with demographic inquiries about gender, age, employment location, prior experience teaching and studying English, etc. These inquiries often appear first because they are straightforward and "demand minimum effort from the reply" (Rasinger, 2013). The last sections are divided into three open-ended questions. In this research, a quantitative methodology was used. This is because combining several approaches might result in more persuasive and trustworthy findings than doing so with just one. To gather data from quantitative analyses, a web-based questionnaire was developed as the primary research. The closed questions' responses-the majority of which were in the form of Likert-scale ratings-were utilized to compile the quantitative data. Data from those questionnaire questions were utilized to examine the career motivation, degree of motivation, and variables influencing teachers' motivation in native Chinese EFL university instructors. The demographic data, motivational data, and participant-written texts that could be used to gauge the difficulty of their English writing were all collected as part of a survey that was utilized to gather the data for the present research.

3.3 Data collection procedure

The software application was used to create the questionnaire. There were four motivational elements for EFL teachers that were examined: career motivation, intensity degree of motivation, and motivational factors for professional growth. Based on earlier research on EFL teacher motivation in career growth (see, for example, Dörnyei, 2001; Kassabgy, Boraie, and Schmidt, 2001; Sugino, 2010a; Kim et al., 2014; Rasheed, Humayon, Awan, and Ahmed, 2015), questionnaire questions were created. Additionally, certain components were taken from research on the motivation of teachers in general education (see e.g., Watt, and Richardson, 2008).

Choosing a representative group of units from a big population is the process of using the quantitative research sampling technique (Bryman, 2016). The selection procedure is laborious and expensive, but samples should be as accurately representative of the population as feasible (Dörnyei and Taguchi, 2010: 60). Numerous techniques, such as convenience sampling, random sampling, etc., may be utilized.

The snowball sampling technique, which includes a "chain reaction," was mostly used in this investigation. The

researcher chose a small group of individuals to serve as the contact persons, and then requested these individuals to invite other members of the population to serve as contact people (Dörnyei and Taguchi, 2010: 60). Snowball sampling was chosen because it is more socially acceptable in the Chinese environment, where "face-saving" and social networks are significant factors. In China, it is uncommon for strangers to get in touch with someone directly since doing so is regarded embarrassing and may result in face loss. People have a tendency to rely on their social networks by requesting favors from friends. As a result, to create the snowball sample in this research, coworkers, old classmates, and acquaintances who work at different colleges were recruited. EFL instructors and teachers from other disciplines are the points of communication. Many considerations and variables were adjusted for when choosing the contact persons, including the location of their jobs and the kind of institution where they worked, in order to guarantee the representativeness and richness of the data.

Subsequently, a pilot study was carried out prior to the survey being given to the informants. The objective was to find errors and examine the questionnaire's design. The questionnaire's structure was changed to make it easier to comprehend, and any unclear or biased questions were either omitted or rewritten. 50 EFL instructors from China who were employed by the same institution but were not included in the final research agreed to participate in the pilot study. They looked over every question on the survey, responded to them, and gave spoken comments, mostly about the structure and language of the questions. For instance, they recommended utilizing various font sizes for the question items and directions. As a result, a questionnaire with a more readable structure was created. The items' wording was changed to make them more specific.

3.4 Data analysis

The researcher gathered the data through a questionnaire of closed-ended questions and three open questions. When data was received from 201 native Chinese university EFL instructors, it was analyzed through SPSS software. The numbering of the replies received from the respondents was done. The total scores on the scale were computed to investigate the motivation of EFL instructors regarding professional development.

4. Results

4.1 Self-reported satisfaction level of teacher motivation

The findings of the study on the motivation of native Chinese EFL instructors at the university level are presented in this section . They include the teachers' professional motivation, degree of motivation, and self-rated motivators. This part begins with the participants' self-reported satisfaction level of teacher motivation, followed by results on the kinds, reasons, and variables affecting the career choices of EFL instructors. And then, the degree of instructor motivation is presented .

The findings in this part depend on all 203 informants who responded to the questionnaire. **Table 1** lists the participants' self-reported levels of satisfaction. According to the findings, only roughly 14% of the participants evaluated themselves as "strongly agree" and felt confident in their English language ability. First of all, English is not often utilized as a means of communication; even EFL instructors seldom get the chance to speak and hear English in everyday life.

4.2 Motivation to become an English teacher for a career

One goal of the research is to determine why Chinese EFL instructors choose to pursue a career in teaching English. According to the mean scores **Table 2**, Item 4, "I feel a sense of accomplishment and pride when I see students make progress in English," came in top with a mean of 5.19. Question 9, which deals with EFL instructors' desire to share their personal English learning experiences with students, came in second with a mean of 4.91. Additionally, the participants claimed that elements like satisfaction with the teaching process (item 2, mean = 4.89) and an interest in English (item 6, mean = 4.81) had a significant role in their decision to pursue a career in education.

Furthermore, it was discovered that approximately 79% of the respondents (**Figure 1**) gathered means above four on a six-point Likert scale for items suggesting intrinsic motivation. This finding indicates the main kind of career motivation that teachers of English as a Foreign Language stated attends to be intrinsic. Only 13.90% of participants

Forum for Linguistic Studies	Volume 06	Issue 03	September 2024
------------------------------	-----------	----------	----------------

Table 1. Self-reported satisfaction level of teacher motivation (N=203).						
Satisfaction level						
Item	1	2	3	4	5	6
Percentage	5.93%	4.96%	12.86%	26.74%	34.64%	14.86%

Table 2. Aspects for choosing English teaching as a career ($N = 203$).					
	Ν	Mean	Std.Deviation		
1. Working conditions at universities are good.	203	4.34	1.250		
2. I really enjoy teaching English.	203	4.89	1.135		
3. My parents wanted me to become an English teacher.	203	3.76	1.646		
4. I feel a sense of accomplishment and pride when I see students make progress in English.	203	5.19	1.189		
5. English teachers are well-paid.	202	3.25	1.201		
6. I have a strong interest in the English Language.	203	4.81	1.066		
7. English teachers have a relatively high social status.	203	4.00	1.097		
8. I believe that English education plays a vital role in	203	4.74	1.078		
students' future careers.					
9. I want to share my own	203	4.91	1.104		
10. I want to contribute to	203	2.40	1.784		
11. My parents are teachers.	203	4.63	1.138		
12. Teaching English as a career suit me because I feel confident with my English ability.	203	4.69	1.163		

said that extrinsic values, such as pay, benefits, and social standing, were more significant influences on their employment choice, as shown in **Figure 1**. Approximately 63.70% of those who took part said that their decision to become teachers was motivated by altruism. For instance, they believed that teaching English may help the Chinese people become more globally minded in some little ways.



In conclusion, according to **Figure 1**, while the native Chinese university EFL instructors in this research had several motivations for teaching languages, their major motive was intrinsic. Altruistic motivation, which is related to the desire to benefit others, also had an impact on the participants' professional motivation in the current research. This is consistent with research on the initial employment motivation of EFL instructors conducted in several nations, including Turkey (Topkaya and Uztosun, 2012) and Iran (Koran, 2015).

4.3 Teachers' motivation level

A total of fourteen items, focusing on desire and dedication, were created for the questionnaire in the current study to assess the level of teacher motivation. The comprehensive survey findings on participant motivation, including their dedication to teaching and their willingness to stay current on the topic, are shown in **Table 3**. As can be observed, the average motivating level of EFL teachers is high, at 4.43. For instance, many of them claim to be continuing their education by watching English-language films in their free time and staying current with events in their field of expertise. Additionally, they put effort into their instruction.

	mens mourau		
	Ν	Mean	Std.Deviation
1. In my spare time, I read books on English teaching.	203	4.39	1.387
2. I attend seminars and conferences to improve my English teaching.	203	4.43	1.371
3. I am aware of current trends at the university level English teaching in China.	203	4.81	1.245
4. I have been able to keep up to date with teaching theories and methods in order to improve my own teaching.	203	4.47	1.284
5. I have participated in in-service teacher training.	202	4.57	1.505
6. I have been able to keep up to date with what is going on in the field of my expertise.	203	4.86	1.280
7. I watch English movies in my spare time.	203	4.91	1.374
8. I have attended conferences in my research field.	203	4.75	1.442
9. I read English novels in my spare time.	203	4.20	1.435
10. I take the initiative to observe other teachers' classes in order to improve my own teaching.	203	4.40	1.325
11. I exchange ideas on teaching with my colleagues.	203	4.88	1.303
12. I am continuously monitoring the impact of my teach- ing(e.g.the progress of students).	203	4.94	1.241
13. I am able to use multimedia and digital teaching resources in class.	203	5.51	1.208
14. I have adjusted my teaching to meet students' needs over the past couple of years.	203	5.45	1.186

Table 3. Chinese university EFL teachers' motivation level.

5. Discussion

The current study was an empirical attempt to reveal the Chinese EFL teachers' motivation of professional development at the University Level. According to the study, even though EFL instructors had a variety of motivations for deciding to become teachers, intrinsic drive predominated in their decision. Despite reporting a decline in intensity between the time they started their careers and the time they answered the questionnaire, EFL teachers generally had a high degree of motivation. Besides, one of the main sources of motivation was discovered to be intrinsic elements, such as a sense of personal growth. This study also demonstrated that the majority of teachers enjoy teaching and have a strong interest in the English Language, which could be concluded in intrinsic motivation. In addition to that, altruistic motivation is the second motive as they believe that English education plays a vital role in students' future careers. These findings corroborate those of Dowson and McInerney (2003), Maehr and Dowson (2004), who contended that there are three components to teacher motivation: attraction, retention,

and focus.

Therefore, chances for teacher growth and with-service training activities may aid in boosting motivation among teachers. According to Nudrat (2017), training exercises can aid instructors in feeling more accomplished, which enhances their performance at work. Spuck (1974) discovered that engaging in constructive social interactions may help motivate people, and conferences and seminars can help teachers engage with one another. In conclusion, maintaining teachers' enthusiasm and enabling individuals to impart knowledge to the highest level of their abilities requires a collaborative effort from the institution, students, and the instructors themselves. Teachers are only likely to be effective if they are personally fulfilled and strongly driven.

6. Limitations and Implications

To conclude, this study showed that teachers' motivation contributes to their professional development and well-being because they are all governed by intrapersonal and interpersonal variables. However, the study did not report the mediating role of many other teacher-related factors in such interplay. Further research can be done on the impacts of teachers' internal, external, and altruistic motivation on students' English proficiency in the context of assessment, especially alternative methods like learning-oriented assessment (LOA) that entails questioning strategies and interactions (Derakhshan and Ghiasvand, 2022). Finally, the interaction and influence of teachers' motivation and PP constructs (Derakhshan, 2022) on teachers' professional development and wellbeing can be explored in the future using mixed-methods designs.

7. Conclusion

In conclusion, this study contributes to the field of EFL teacher motivation research in the areas of career inspiration, degree of desire, factors that motivate teachers, and the association between individual characteristics and teacher motivation. By giving academics the chance to fully comprehend EFL teachers at university levels in a Chinese environment, the study also fills a vacuum in motivation research. Relevant research on the motivation of such EFL teachers is scarce. Hopefully, the perspectives on English language instruction in mainland China that are mentioned in the current study's Part 2 may inspire more research on the subject. More significantly, this study marks the first time a formula for evaluating the level of English writing ability of EFL teachers has been used.

The findings may have applications for sustaining or boosting the desire of EFL teachers. It is important to have a thorough approach to evaluating teachers that takes into account the many facets of their professional contributions and practice. In order to provide teachers more time for research, policies that lighten their responsibilities might be created. Additionally, chances for in-service training must be made available in order to increase teachers' productivity, competence, understanding, and desire in their line of work.

Author Contributions

Miaomiao Wang is currently doing her 2nd year PhD program at School of Foreign Languages & Culture, Nanjing Normal University, China. She finished her postgraduate in University of Leeds, England, with a major in TESOL Studies in November 2018. Her research area is mainly about

motivation in teachers professional development and EFL teaching & learning. She has done some research in teacher development and has abundant EFL teaching experience in universities. Her recent research has published in *Porta Linguarum*, *Learning and Motivation*, *Solid State Technology*, *Journal of EFL Learning & Teaching*, etc.

Conflict of Interest

The Authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

Funding

This study is supported by grant from the Philosophy and Social Research Projects in Colleges of Anhui Province: A Study on the Foreign Cultural Communication of the English Version of Chinese Classical Literature "An Epigraph in Praise of My Humble Home" in the Perspective of Cultural Semiotics (Grant Number: 2022AH052422).

References

- Adamson, B., 2002. Barbarian as a foreign language: English in China's Schools. World Englishes. 21(2), 231–243. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-971X.00244
- Adamson, B., 2004. China's English: A history of English in Chinese education. Hong Kong University Press: Hong Kong.
- Aydin, S., 2012. Factors causing demotivation in EFL teaching process: A case study. The Qualitative Report. 17(101), 1–13.
- Bhatt, S.P., 2021. Self-directed professional development: EFL teachers' understanding. Interna- tional Journal of Language and Literary Studies. 3(4), 196–208. DOI:https://doi.org/10.36892/ijlls.v3i4.737
- Braine, G., 2010. Nonnative speaker English teachers: Research, pedagogy, and professional growth. Routledge: NY.
- Bolton, K., 2002. Chinese Englishes: From Canton jargon to global English. World Englishes. 21(2), 181–199. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1111/1467971X.00241
- Brookhart, S.M., Freeman, D.J., 1992. Characteristics of entering teacher candidates. Review of Educational Research. 62, 37–60. DOI: https://doi.org/10.3102/0034654306200103
- Bryman, A., 2016. Social research methods. Oxford university press: Oxford.
- Bulté, B., Housen, A., 2018. Syntactic

complexity in L2 writing: Individual Pathways and Emerging Group Trends. International Journal of Applied Linguistics. 28(1), 147–164. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1111/ijal.12196

- Cheng, A., Wang, Q., 2012. English language teaching in higher education in China: A Historical and social overview. In J. Ruan and C.B. Leung (Eds.), Perspectives on teaching and learning English literacy in China. Springer International: Amsterdam. pp. 19–33.
- Derakhshan, A., 2022. Revisiting re- search on positive psychology in second and foreign language education: Trends and directions. Language Related Research. 13(5), 1–43. DOI: https:// doi.org/10.52547/LRR.13.5.2
- Derakhshan, A., Ghiasvand, F., 2022. Demystifying Iranian EFL teachers' perceptions and practices of learning-oriented assessment (LOA): Chal- lenges and prospects in focus. Language Testing in Asia. 12(55), 1–18. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1186/s40468022-00204-2
- Deressa, T.A., Zeru, G., 2019. Work motivation and its effects on organizational performance: The case of nurses in Hawassa public and private hospitals: Mixed method study approach. BMC Res Notes. 12, 213. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1186/s13104-019-4255-7
- Dörnyei, Z., 2001. Teaching and researching motivation: Applied linguistics in action. Longman: London.
- Dörnyei, Z., 2005. The psychology of the language learner: Individual differences in second lan- guage acquisition. Lawrence Erlbaum: Mahwah, NJ.
- Dörnyei, Z., Taguchi, T., 2010. Question- naires in second language research: Construction, ad- ministration and processing. Routledge: New York.
- Dowson, M., McInerney, D.M., 2003. What do students say about their motivational goals? To- wards a more complex and dynamic perspective on stu- dent motivation. Contemporary Educational Psychol- ogy. 28, 91–113. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/S0361-476X(02)00010-3
- Fu, K., 1986. The history of foreign language edu- cation in China. Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press: Shanghai.
- Gao, X. A., Wang, W., 2016. Bilingual educa- tion in the People's Republic of China. In O. Garcia, A.M.Y. Lin, S. May (Eds.), Bilingual and multilingual education. Springer: Switzerland. pp. 219–231.
- Guajardo, J., 2011. Teacher motivation: Theoretical framework, situation analysis of Save the Children country offices, and recommended strategies. Save the Children: Fair-Field, CT, USA.
- Jiang, Y., 2003. English as a Chinese language. English Today. 19(2), 3–8.
- Kazerouni, N., Sadighi, F., 2014. Investi- gating Iranian female EFL teachers' motivation and job

satisfaction level at public schools and private language institutes in Shiraz. International Journal on Studies in English Language and Literature. 2(8), 93–105.

- Kim, J., 2014. Predicting L2 writing proficiency using linguistic complexity measures: A corpus-based study. English Teaching. 69(4), 27–51.
- Han, J., Yin, H., 2016. Teacher motivation: Definition, research development and implications for teachers. Cogent Education. 3, 1–18. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1080/2331186X.2016.1217819
- Hastings, C., 2012. Teacher motivation: The next step in L2 motivation research. INTESOL Journal. 5, 61–70.
- Hu, G., 2002. English language teaching in the People's Republic of China. In R.E. Silver, G.W. Hu, M. Iino (Eds.), English 180 language education in China, Japan, and Singapore. National Institute of Education: Singapore. pp. 1–77.
- Joseph, P.B., Green, N., 1986. Perspectives on reasons for becoming teachers. Journal of Teacher Education. 37(6), 28–33. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1177/00224871860370060
- Karavas, E., 2010. How satisfied are Greek EFL teachers with their work? Investigating the motivation and job satisfaction levels of Greek EFL teachers. Porta Linguarum. 14, 59–78.
- Kassabgy, O., Boraie, D., Schmidt, R., 2001. Values, rewards, and job satisfaction in ESL/EFL. In Z. Dörnyei, R. Schmidt (Eds.), Motivation and Second Language Acquisition. 4(2), 213–237.
- Koran, S., 2015. Analyzing EFL teachers' initial job motivation and factors effecting their motivation in Fezalar educational institutions in Iraq. Advances in Language and Literary Studies. 6(1), 72–80.
- Li, L., Zhang, R., Liu, L., 1988. A history of English language teaching in China. Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press: Shanghai.
- Llurda, E., 2005. Non-native language teachers: Perceptions, challenges and contributions to the profession. Springer: New York.
- Ma, W.Y., 2012. Factors affecting the motivation of TEFL academics in higher education in China. Queensland University of Technology.
- McInerney, D.M., Maehr, M.L., Dowson, M., 2004. Motivation and culture. In C.D. Spielberger (Ed.), Encyclopaedia of applied psychology. Elsevier: St Louis, MO. pp. 631–639.
- Michaelowa, K., 2002. Teacher career satisfaction, student achievement and the cost of pri- mary education in Francophone Sub-Saharan Africa. HWWA Discussion Paper.
- Nayernia, A., Babayan, Z., 2019. EFL teacher burnout and self-assessed language proficiency: exploring possible relationships. Language Testing Asia. 9(1), 1–16.

- Nudrat, S., 2017. Effects of in-service training opportunities on sense of achievement of employees of Public Sector Universities of Punjab, Pakistan. Bulletin of Education and Research. 39(1), 45–59.
- Ortega, L., 2003. Syntactic complexity measures and their relationship to L2 proficiency: A research synthesis of college-level L2 writing. Applied Linguistics. 24(4), 492–518. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1093/applin/24.4.492
- Price, R., 1971. English teaching in China: changes in teaching methods from 1960–1966. English Language Teaching Journal. 26(1), 71–83. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1093/elt/XXVI.1.71
- Rasheed, M.I., Humayon, A.A., Awan, U., et al., 2015. Factors affecting teachers' motivation: An HRM challenge for public sector higher educational institutions of Pakistan (HEIs). International Journal of Educational Management. 30(1), 101–114. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1108/IJEM-04-2014-0057
- Rasinger, M., 2013. Quantitative research in linguistics: An introduction. Bloomsbury: London.
- Rao, P., 2019. The role of English as a global language. Research Journal of English. 4(1), 65–79.
- Richards, J.C., 2017. Teaching English through English: Proficiency, pedagogy and performance. RELC Journal. 48(1), 7–30. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1177/0033688217690059
- Ross, H.A., 1992. Foreign language education as a barometer of modernization. In R. Hayhoe (Ed.), Education and modernization: The Chinese experience. Pergamon: Oxford. pp. 239–254.
- Ross, H.A., 1993. China learns English: Language teaching and social changes in People's Republic. Yale University Press: New Haven, CT.
- Sugino, T., 2010. Teacher demotivational factors in the Japanese language teaching context. Procedia-Social and Behavioral Sciences. 3, 216–226. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2010.07.036
- Si, J., 2019. English as a lingua franca: A new approach for English language teaching in China? Chinese Journal of Applied Linguistics. 42(1), 113–135. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1515/CJAL-2019-0007
- Sinclair, C., 2008. Initial and changstudent teacher motivation ing and commitment teaching. Asia-Pacific Journal to of Teacher Education. 36(2), 79–104. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1080/13598660801971658
- Simpson, W., 2017. An Instrumental Tool Held at Arm's Length: English as a Vehi- cle of Cultural Imperialism in China. Chinese Jour- nal of Applied Linguistics, 40(3). 333-348. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1515/cjal-2017-0019

- Spuck, D.W., 1974. Reward Structures in the Public High School. Educational Administration Quarterly. 10(1), 18–34. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1177/0013161x7401000102
- Tang, L., 1984. TEFL in China: Methods and techniques. Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press: Shanghai.
- Topkaya, E.Z., Uztosun, M.S.. 2012. Choosing teaching as a career: Motivations of preservice English teachers in turkey. Journal of Language Teaching and Research, 3(1). 134–126. DOI: https://doi.org/10.4304/jltr.3.1.126-134
- Tsutsumi, R., 2014. Exploring Japanese university EFL teacher motivation. Pan-Pacific Association of Applied Linguistics. 18(1), 121–143.
- Watt, H.M.G., Richardson, P.W., 2008. Motivations, perceptions, and aspirations concerning teaching as a career for different types of beginning teachers. Learning and Instruction. 18, 408–428. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.learninstruc.2008.06.002
- Wang, M., Wang, Y., 2023. Exploring the con- tribution of interpersonal emotion regulation to pre- service EFL teachers' sustainable professional devel- opment and wellbeing. Porta Linguarum. 1, 329–347. DOI: https://doi.org/10.30827/portalin.vi2023c.29657
- Wang, Y.X., Wang, Y.L., 2023. Exploring Chinese EFL pre-service teachers' perceptions of selfdirected professional development: The benefits and challenges disclosed. Porta Linguarum. 1, 29–46. DOI: https://doi.org/10.30827/portalin.vi2023c.29623
- Wang, Q., 2002. Primary school English teaching in China: New developments. English Language Teacher Education and Development. 7, 99–108.
- Wang, Y., Derakhshan, A. Zhang, J., 2021. Researching and practicing positive psychology in second/foreign language learning and teaching: The past, current status and future directions. Frontier in Psychology. 12, 1–1. DOI: https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2021.731721
- Yao, X., 1993. Foreign languages in Chinese higher education. Language Learning Journal. 7, 74–77.

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1080/09571739385200211
Yan, C., He, C., 2011. Enhancing part-time inservice teacher training programmes to facilitate rural teacher development in China. Prospects: Quarterly Review of Comparative Education. 41(4), 553–566.
DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/s11125-011-9211-9

Zhang, H., Wu, J., Zhu, Y., 2020. Why do you choose to teach Chinese as a second language? A study of pre-service CSL teachers' motivations. System. 91, 102242. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.system.2020.102242