

2020- 2021 Outstanding Thesis Award Winner Randy Lucio



Written for his M.A. in English Composition: Applied Linguistics and TESL, Randy Lucio's thesis, *Critical Period Controversies for Second Language Acquisition: Implications for Language Teaching*, explains and clarifies complex theories of second language acquisition while suggesting practical applications in education. The thesis focuses on Eric Lenneberg's theory of a critical period for language acquisition and its implications on second language learners. His thesis was chosen for both its clarity and its practical applications in the field.

In her letter of support, Professor Sunny Hyon wrote: "[Lucio] has written a very valuable critical synthesis of scholarship on age and second language acquisition. His thesis is so useful that I am considering assigning it as required reading in my graduate course on second language acquisition." Dr. Hyon served as Lucio's committee chair.

Lucio discovered his love of language as an undergraduate student at UCLA, where he majored in Anthropology and minored in Spanish. "My biggest interest was language," Lucio said. "My undergraduate career revolved around language, and my Spanish minor opened up new avenues in pursuing an academic career."

Lucio found himself gravitating toward teaching positions; he landed a job at Chaffey College as a Spanish and ESL tutor and picked up additional work through private tutoring organizations and public schools.

"A coworker at Chaffey got her BA at CSUSB, and she introduced me to the MA in TESL in English program. The TESL program sounded really interesting – I decided to continue my studies and follow my trajectory in language."

Lucio credits the caring atmosphere at CSUSB for his academic and personal success:

"CSUSB is a very supportive environment. The graduate program was such a great experience and the professors and my classmates created such a supportive environment. It built up my confidence and spiked new ideas on my assignments and my thinking."

Lucio is entertaining the idea of pursuing a Ph.D. in the near future. In the meantime, he has accepted a position as an ESL tutor at Mt. San Antonio College and is glad to be back to doing what he loves.

"I'm happy to get back to in-person instruction. I haven't been inside a classroom in a long time. It's really exciting to have the opportunity to apply what I learned."