**Preparedness of Novice English Language Teachers in Zhejiang Province, China**

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### Abstract

*This qualitative study investigates the preparedness of first-year general education teachers in Zhejiang Province, China, to instruct English Language Learners (ELLs) by exploring their cognitive, emotional, sociocultural, and pedagogical dimensions. Using interviews and observations, data from novice English Language teachers will be analyzed through thematic analysis. The findings will offer valuable insights into their perceptions and preparedness in teaching ELLs, enabling the development of targeted support and training programs to enhance their effectiveness. This research contributes to understanding teacher preparedness for ELL instruction, benefiting teacher education and professional development initiatives.*

##### **Keywords:** novice English Language teachers; preparedness; qualitative descriptive study

### 1 Introduction

English Language Learners (ELLs) are a rapidly growing population in schools worldwide, including in China. However, ELLs face numerous challenges in the classroom, including language barriers, cultural differences, and difficulty accessing appropriate learning materials. As a result, it is essential for teachers to be well-prepared and equipped with effective strategies to support the needs of ELLs. In China, novice teachers are expected to teach ELLs without necessarily having received specialized training or support. This lack of preparation can lead to frustration and stress for teachers, as well as negative outcomes for ELLs (Kessler et al., 2021; Sun et al., 2023; Yang et al. 2022). Besides, as attested by Billington (2023), teacher preparation is a critical factor in ensuring that ELLs receive the support they need to succeed academically. Teachers must be equipped with the knowledge and skills to teach language and content effectively to ELLs, who often face significant language and cultural barriers in the classroom. Language barriers can lead to difficulties in communication, which can negatively affect academic achievement and social-emotional development (Khalisa et al., 2022). Moreover, ELLs may struggle to comprehend academic language and participate in class discussions, which can further hinder their learning experience. Cultural barriers can also be a challenge in the classroom. As stated by Hathaway et al. (2023), ELLs may come from cultures with different norms and values than those of the dominant culture in the classroom, which can lead to misunderstandings and conflicts. Additionally, teachers may be unfamiliar with the cultural backgrounds of their ELLs, which can make it difficult to develop culturally responsive teaching strategies.

Data analysis will involve a thematic analysis approach, which will allow for the identification of key themes and patterns in the data. The themes will be cross-checked with the literature to ensure their relevance and accuracy. The findings of this study will contribute to the understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by first-year teachers in the Chinese context and inform the development of teacher preparation programs aimed at improving teacher preparedness for ELL instruction (Nazir & Ozcicek, 2023). The sample for this study consists of first-year general education teachers from various colleges in Zhejiang Province, China. The teachers were selected based on their willingness to participate in the study and their experience teaching ELLs. The sample consists of male and female teachers who belong to various linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

Overall, this study will provide insights into the preparedness of first-year teachers in China to teach ELL students and contribute to the development of more effective teacher education programs and support systems. It is hoped that the findings of this study will help improve the quality of education provided to ELL students in China and promote their academic success.

1.1 Research problem

Several studies have examined the preparedness of teachers in other countries to teach ELL students, but there is a dearth of research on this topic in the Chinese context (Forneris, 2022; Park, 2022; Kim, 2022; Wu, 2023; Yang, 2022). Despite the growing population of English Language Learners (ELLs) in China, there is a significant gap in the literature on the preparedness of first-year general education teachers to effectively teach these students. Based on the findings of Chen and Huang (2021), the Chinese education system prioritizes test scores and academic performance, which may not cater to the specific needs of ELL (English Language Learner) students who require more individualized support to excel academically. This suggests that there may be specific challenges that Chinese teachers face when teaching ELL students that have not been adequately addressed in the existing literature.

1.2 Research gap

One research gap is the lack of studies examining how the cognitive dimension of teacher preparedness affects their ability to effectively teach ELL learners. Despite the growing number of ELL students in China, there is a lack of studies examining how the cognitive dimension of teacher preparedness affects their ability to effectively teach ELL learners in China. The cognitive dimension pertains to a teacher's understanding of the subject matter and effective teaching methods.

Another research gap is a lack of studies to explore how the emotional dimension of teacher preparedness affects their ability to teach ELL learners effectively (Wijaya & Cendra, 2023). The emotional aspect of teacher preparedness pertains to the teacher's individual beliefs, attitudes, and feelings toward English Language Learners (ELL) students. This aspect can greatly affect the teacher's ability to teach these learners effectively. However, there is a lack of research on how the emotional dimension of teacher preparedness impacts their effectiveness in teaching ELL learners.

A third research gap is a lack of studies to examine how the sociocultural dimension of teacher preparedness affects their ability to teach ELL learners effectively. While there is some research on the sociocultural dimension of teacher preparedness for ELL instruction, there is a need for more studies that specifically focus on the context of China (Khalisa et al., 2022).

A fourth research gap is a lack of studies to investigate how the pedagogical knowledge dimension of teacher preparedness affects their ability to teach ELL learners effectively in China (Lee and de Oliveira, 2021). Research has shown that pedagogical knowledge is an important dimension of teacher preparedness for ELL instruction (Ji, 2022; Lu, 2022; Wang, 2021). However, there is a lack of studies examining how this dimension of teacher preparedness affects their ability to effectively teach ELL learners in China.

1.3 Research objectives

RO1: To describe the novice English Language teachers’ preparedness to address the cognitive dimension of teaching ELLs in Zhejiang province, China.

RO2: To describe the novice English Language teachers’ preparedness to address the emotional dimension of teaching ELLs in Zhejiang province, China.

RO3: To describe the novice English Language teachers’ preparedness to address the sociocultural dimension of teaching ELLs in Zhejiang province, China.

RO4: To describe the novice English Language teachers’ preparedness to address the pedagogical knowledge dimension of teaching ELLs in Zhejiang province, China.

Overall, these research objectives aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of the preparedness of first-year general education teachers in China to effectively teach ELL learners and identify any gaps in their training that may impact their ability to do so.

The research questions are the backbone of any study, guiding the direction of the research and shaping the findings. In this study, the research questions were developed to explore the preparedness of newly hired general education teachers in China to effectively teach ELLs. The questions were designed to explore four dimensions of teacher preparedness, namely, cognitive, emotional, sociocultural, and pedagogical knowledge dimensions, and to identify any gaps or challenges that may exist in these areas.

1.4 Research Questions

The following are the research questions:

RQ1: How do novice English Language teachers describe their preparedness to address the cognitive dimension of teaching English Language Learners (ELL) in Zhejiang province, China?

RQ2: How do novice English Language teachers describe their preparedness to address the emotional dimension of teaching English Language Learners (ELL) in Zhejiang province, China?

RQ3: How do novice English Language teachers describe their preparedness to address the sociocultural dimension of teaching English Language Learners (ELL) in Zhejiang province, China?

RQ4: How do novice English Language teachers describe their preparedness to address the pedagogical knowledge dimension of teaching English Language Learners (ELL) in Zhejiang province, China?

The research questions for this study focus on the preparedness of first-year general education teachers in China to effectively teach ELLs, with a particular focus on the cognitive, emotional, sociocultural, and pedagogical knowledge dimensions of teacher preparedness. The questions were designed to explore the specific challenges that teachers may face when teaching ELLs in China and to identify any gaps in their knowledge or training that may impact their ability to effectively support these students. By answering these questions, this study aims to provide valuable insights into the teacher preparation process in China and inform the development of policies and programs to better support ELL students in Chinese classrooms.

### 2 Literature Review

The literature review serves as a critical foundation for this study on teacher preparedness and ELL instruction. The review seeks to examine current research, theories, and practices surrounding the dimensions of teacher preparedness and their impact on ELL instruction. The review includes studies from multiple countries, as well as recent and diverse sources to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the topic. The first section of the review provides an introduction to the study, highlighting the importance of investigating teacher preparedness and ELL instruction.

2.1 Importance of Teacher Preparedness

The importance of education for English language learners (ELLs) cannot be overstated. English language proficiency is increasingly seen as a necessary skill in today's global society, and ELLs face numerous challenges in acquiring this proficiency while also learning academic content. In their 2022 research, Khalisa et al. emphasized the importance of English language proficiency for non-native speakers, as it can impact academic success, career advancement, and social integration. In a study by Johnson and Oliva (2020), it was found that English language learners who receive appropriate support and instruction are more likely to achieve academic success and improve their English language skills. According to Ngo et al. (2021), English language learners who have access to quality language instruction and resources are better equipped to participate in the global economy and compete in the job market. In a report by the Migration Policy Institute (2021), it was stated that the education of English language learners is crucial for the economic, social, and cultural well-being of communities and the country. Research by Kanno and Kang (2021) found that English language learners who receive culturally responsive instruction and respect their linguistic and cultural backgrounds are more likely to feel a sense of belonging and engagement in the classroom, which can lead to improved academic outcomes. The growing number of English Language Learners (ELLs) in schools has created a pressing need for teachers who are prepared to meet the unique needs of these students. Teachers must be equipped with the knowledge and skills to teach language and content effectively to ELLs, who often face significant language and cultural barriers in the classroom.

Overall, there is a critical need for teachers who are prepared to work effectively with ELLs in the classroom. Teacher preparation programs must focus on developing the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the unique needs of ELLs, and schools must provide ongoing training and support for teachers to ensure that they can provide high-quality instruction to all students, regardless of their language background.

2.2 Dimensions of Teacher Preparation

The success of English Language Learners (ELLs) in the classroom is closely linked to the level of teacher preparedness for working with these students. Effective teacher preparation for ELL instruction involves a variety of dimensions, including cognitive, emotional, sociocultural, and pedagogical knowledge. In this section, we will delve into each of these dimensions in more detail and discuss their significance in ensuring that teachers have the knowledge and skills necessary to support the success of English Language Learners in the classroom. Research has explored the various dimensions of teacher preparedness, such as the technological dimension, which refers to the teacher's ability to use technology effectively in the classroom (Chen & Liu, 2020), and the experiential dimension, which refers to the teacher's practical experience in working with ELL students (Wang et al., 2021). Another important dimension is the linguistic dimension, which involves the teacher's proficiency in the language of instruction and the language(s) spoken by ELL students (Riley & Navarro, 2020). Less is known about the specific challenges faced by newly hired teachers in China. First-year teachers often face significant challenges in adapting to the demands of the classroom, particularly when it comes to teaching English Language Learner (ELL) students. Based on Peng and Lin (2020), these challenges can include managing student behavior, adapting to cultural differences, and developing effective instructional strategies. Therefore, teacher training and support are critical in preparing teachers to work effectively with ELL students.

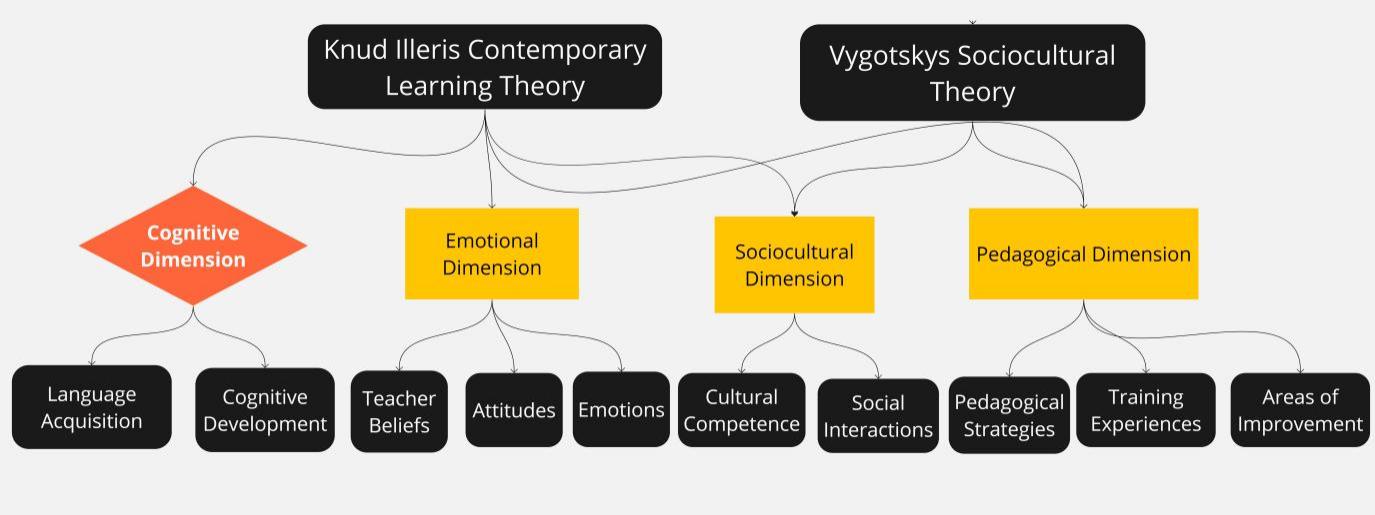
Inman and Esparza Brown (2021) noted that ongoing professional development and mentorship programs can help new teachers develop the skills and knowledge necessary to support ELL students. Additionally, teacher education programs that include coursework and field experiences related to ELL students can better prepare teachers for the demands of the classroom, as stated by Elbaz-Luwisch and Peled (2021). Cultural competence is also essential for teachers working with ELL students, as noted by Capper and Youngs (2021). Teachers must be able to communicate effectively with ELL students and their families, understand the cultural norms and values of these students, and develop culturally responsive instructional strategies. Language policies at the state and federal levels can have a significant impact on teacher preparation for ELL students, as changes in language policies such as the elimination of bilingual education programs can significantly affect the preparation of teachers to work with ELL students, as noted by Lucido (2020). Finally, technology can be a valuable tool for preparing teachers to work with ELL students, as noted by Kim and Lee (2021). Online training programs, webinars, and digital resources can provide teachers with the knowledge and skills they need to work effectively with ELL students in the classroom.

2.3 Conceptual Framework of Study

The conceptual framework of this study is grounded in two foundational theories: Knud Illeri's Contemporary Learning Theory (Illeris, 2018) and Vygotsky's Sociocultural Theory (Vygotsky & Cole, 1978). These theories provide a lens through which the study examines the preparedness of novice English teachers in China to teach ELLs. The framework integrates four primary dimensions: cognitive, emotional, sociocultural, and pedagogical. Each dimension is associated with specific key concepts that are instrumental in understanding teacher preparedness.

The study aims to explore how these four dimensions of teacher preparedness affect ELL instruction in Zhejiang province, China. It will employ a qualitative approach that includes interviews to collect data from ELL teachers in the region. The findings of the study will provide insights into the current state of ELL instruction in Zhejiang province, as well as highlight areas for improvement in teacher preparation programs.

Figure1 Conceptual Framework



2.4 Theories underpinning the study

The study is grounded in relevant theories that provide a conceptual framework for understanding and exploring the phenomenon under investigation. Key theories underpinning the study include Vygotsky's sociocultural theory, which highlights the role of cultural and social contexts in learning and emphasizes the importance of interactions and cultural responsiveness. Additionally, language acquisition theories and pedagogical content knowledge frameworks inform the study's focus on effective instructional strategies for teaching English Language Learners (ELLs). By drawing on these theories, the study aims to deepen our understanding of teacher preparedness and its impact on the academic success of ELLs and to guide the development of targeted interventions and support systems to enhance teaching practices in this context.

2.5 The Sociocultural Theory

The first theory is the sociocultural theory, developed by Lev Vygotsky (1978), a prominent and influential theory that places significant emphasis on the role of social and cultural contexts in learning and development. This theory posits that learning is fundamentally a collaborative process, which takes place through social interactions and cultural practices (Vygotsky & Cole, 1978). According to Vygotsky, children's learning and development are inextricably tied to the social and cultural context they inhabit, making it vital to consider these factors when teaching ELL students. Understanding and addressing sociocultural factors, such as cultural backgrounds, language experiences, and family expectations, enables teachers to create more inclusive and effective learning environments for their ELL students (Gay, 2018). Moreover, by incorporating culturally relevant pedagogy, teachers can better engage ELL students and facilitate their academic success. In this study, the sociocultural theory serves as a theoretical framework to explore how the sociocultural dimension of teacher preparedness influences their capacity to effectively teach ELL learners. This includes examining the extent to which first-year English teachers are equipped to understand and address the diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds of their ELL students, as well as how they navigate social dynamics and cultural practices within the classroom (Carson et al., 2022). Furthermore, the study will investigate how teacher preparedness in the sociocultural dimension impacts the implementation of culturally responsive teaching strategies, fostering a sense of belonging and promoting academic achievement among ELL students (Yeh et al., 2020). By doing so, this research aims to contribute to the development of effective policies and practices that support first-year English teachers in providing high-quality, culturally relevant education for their ELL students.

2.6 The Cognitive Theory

The third theory is the cognitive theory. The cognitive theory is a broad framework that focuses on mental processes and how individuals acquire, process, and use information. This theory asserts that thinking, perception, memory, and problem-solving are key aspects of cognitive processes that influence how individuals learn and interact with the world around them (Feifei & Abdullah, 2023; Thoma, 2022). One of the prominent cognitive theories is the information processing theory. This theory proposes that individuals process information in a step-by-step manner, akin to a computer's processing of data. It involves sensory input, attention, perception, memory, and retrieval processes, and it posits that these processes work together to influence learning and problem-solving. Another influential cognitive theory is the social cognitive theory, which focuses on how individuals learn and acquire knowledge through their social interactions and experiences. This theory posits that individuals learn from observing and modeling the behavior of others and that their beliefs, attitudes, and values are shaped by their social experiences. Finally, the cognitive load theory is another important cognitive theory that focuses on how the cognitive resources of individuals are used during learning and problem-solving. This theory posits that individuals have a limited amount of cognitive resources available and that learning and problem-solving tasks that require significant cognitive resources can overload the system and lead to poor learning outcomes. The theory proposes strategies to manage cognitive load, such as breaking down complex tasks into smaller, more manageable components. Overall, the cognitive theory is a rich and complex framework that has important implications for understanding how individuals learn and process information. It provides valuable insights into the mental processes that underlie human behavior and cognition, and it has informed the development of many influential theories and approaches to education and learning.

2.7 Summary

The literature review section explores four theoretical perspectives that underpin the study, including sociocultural theory, constructivist theory, cognitive theory, and linguistic theory. The sociocultural theory suggests that learning is a collaborative and social process that is influenced by cultural and social factors. The constructivist theory posits that learners actively construct knowledge through their experiences, interactions, and reflections. The cognitive theory emphasizes the role of mental processes such as attention, memory, and problem-solving in learning. Lastly, the linguistic theory highlights the importance of language in facilitating learning and communication. These theories provide a framework for understanding how teacher preparedness affects the effective teaching of ELL learners.

### 3 Research methodology

In this chapter, the research methodology employed in this qualitative descriptive study is outlined and discussed in detail, as it allows for an in-depth exploration of the complex experiences, beliefs, and challenges faced by novice English teachers in China when teaching ELLs. Qualitative research is particularly suited for understanding the intricacies of human experiences and the social processes involved in teaching ELLs (Creswell & Poth, 2016). Through this approach, the study seeks to gain insights into how these teachers perceive their preparedness and the challenges they face in the Chinese educational context, thereby providing valuable information for informing policy and practice. The study aims to explore the preparedness of novice English teachers in China to teach ELLs effectively, focusing on their perceptions and challenges in addressing the cognitive, emotional, sociocultural, and pedagogical dimensions of teaching (Creswell & Poth, 2018). This chapter provides an overview of the research design, setting, population sample, and sampling strategy, as well as the research instruments, data collection, data management, and data analysis procedures. Additionally, it covers the pilot study and its various components, such as data collection, management, analysis, and participant feedback. Ethical considerations, including informed consent, confidentiality, and minimizing harm, are also discussed in this chapter to ensure the protection of participants' rights and well-being. The research methodology presented in this chapter has been carefully designed to provide a rigorous, transparent, and trustworthy foundation for the study's findings and implications (Forneris et al., 2022; Khan et al., 2020; Missikpode et al., 2023).

The research design for this study is a qualitative descriptive design, which aims to provide a comprehensive and detailed account of the phenomenon under investigation. This design is particularly suitable for exploring the preparedness of novice English teachers in China to teach ELLs, as it allows for an in-depth examination of their perceptions and challenges while remaining closely aligned with the data collected from the participants.

Qualitative descriptive design is a type of research methodology that emphasizes the description and interpretation of data to gain insights into a particular phenomenon or topic. This design is often used when the research question is focused on understanding the experiences and perspectives of individuals in a specific context. According to Mohammed (2022), qualitative descriptive research involves the collection and analysis of data using methods such as interviews, observation, and document analysis. The aim is to identify common themes and patterns in the data and to describe and interpret these findings in a way that is accessible and understandable to the reader. Qualitative descriptive design has been used in a variety of educational research studies, including those related to language instruction and teacher preparedness. It is particularly useful in exploring complex and multifaceted topics, such as teacher preparedness for ELL instruction, where a detailed understanding of the experiences and perspectives of teachers is needed to inform practice and policy.

The qualitative descriptive design was chosen for this study due to several compelling reasons. Firstly, it allows the researcher to capture the richness and complexity of the teachers' experiences and perspectives in their own words, providing a nuanced understanding of the phenomenon. This approach enables the researcher to delve deeper into the individual experiences of first-year English teachers, uncovering the unique challenges and successes they encounter as they navigate the complexities of teaching ELLs (Han & Ji, 2021). Secondly, the qualitative descriptive design is well-suited for studies that seek to describe and understand the experiences of a specific population, such as first-year English teachers, in a specific context, such as the Chinese educational system. By employing this design, the research can capture the unique cultural, linguistic, and pedagogical factors that shape the preparedness of these teachers, offering valuable insights that can contribute to the development of targeted interventions and supports (Cross Francis et al., 2020). Thirdly, the qualitative descriptive design is valuable for generating knowledge that can directly inform policy and practice, as it produces findings that are accessible and easily understood by practitioners, policymakers, and other stakeholders. By offering rich, context-specific descriptions of first-year English teachers' preparedness, the study can shed light on the areas in which additional training, resources, or support may be needed, ultimately contributing to the improvement of ELL education in China (Quilliam et al., 2023).

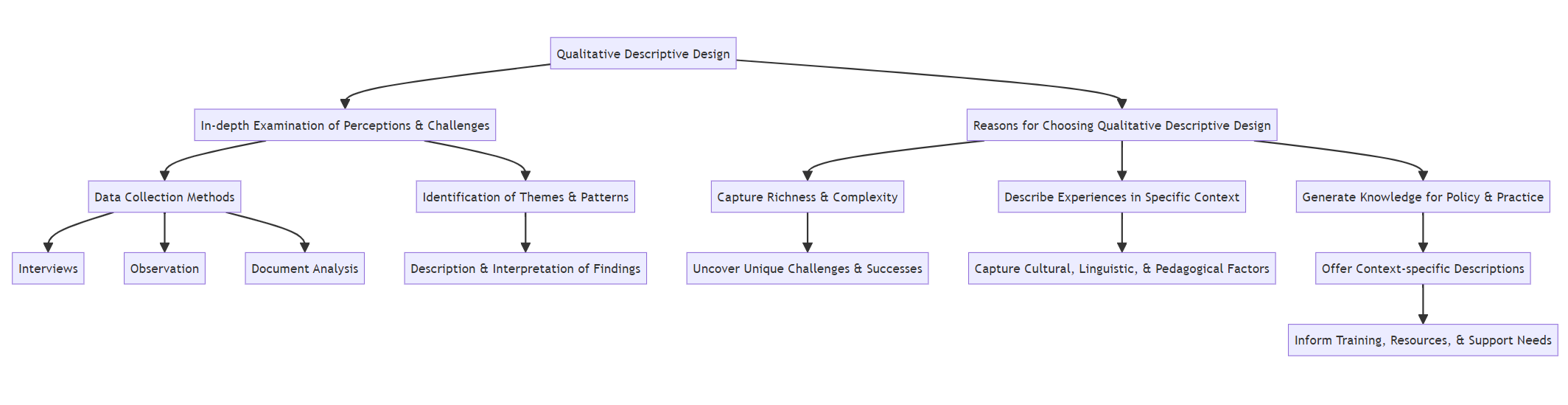


Figure 2: Research Design

### 4 Discussion

4.1 Addressing the Cognitive Dimension of Teacher Preparedness

This section meticulously examines the cognitive preparedness of novice English Language teachers, a critical facet in their ability to effectively educate ELLs. Through an analytical lens, the findings garnered from in-depth interviews and comprehensive classroom observations are scrutinized to ascertain teachers’ self-perceptions regarding their subject matter knowledge, language proficiency, and the repertoire of instructional strategies they employ in ELL contexts.

The discussion is anchored in a thorough exploration of both the strengths and potential areas for improvement in their cognitive preparedness. It probes into the depth and breadth of their understanding of the English language and its pedagogical applications, shedding light on their ability to navigate the complexities of language instruction. The analysis also illuminates how these novice educators perceive their competencies in deploying various instructional methodologies, which are pivotal in addressing the diverse learning needs of ELL students.

Furthermore, this section delves into the challenges these teachers might encounter in the classroom, such as gaps in content knowledge or difficulties in applying theoretical instructional strategies in practical scenarios. These challenges are not only identified but also contextualized within the broader framework of cognitive preparedness, providing a nuanced understanding of the barriers to effective ELL instruction.

In sum, the exploration of the cognitive dimension of teacher preparedness in this section offers a comprehensive view of the capabilities and hurdles faced by novice English Language teachers. It lays the groundwork for understanding the crucial role of cognitive skills in teaching ELLs and sets the stage for discussions on potential strategies for enhancing teacher training and professional development in subsequent sections.

4.2 Addressing the Emotional Dimension of Teacher Preparedness

In this crucial section, the focus shifts to the emotional dimension of teacher preparedness, a vital aspect of effective language instruction. The analysis delves into how newly hired English Language teachers exhibit emotional intelligence, cultural empathy, and their capacity to establish positive, meaningful relationships with their ELL students. Drawing on rich data from interviews and observations, this discussion illuminates the various ways teachers navigate the emotional landscape of the classroom. It underscores the significance of emotional preparedness in creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment, crucial for the academic and personal growth of ELL students. The section goes further to explore the pivotal role that teachers’ emotional awareness and responsiveness play in managing classroom dynamics and fostering a nurturing educational setting. Additionally, this segment of the study offers insightful strategies aimed at enhancing teachers’ emotional competencies, essential for nurturing their ability to connect with, motivate, and support ELL students in their learning journeys.

4.3 Addressing the Sociocultural Dimension of Teacher Preparedness

This part of the study pivots to the sociocultural dimension of teacher preparedness, an area of increasing importance in the diverse landscape of language education. It explores the perceptions and experiences of novice English Language teachers in relation to their understanding and appreciation of the varied cultural and linguistic backgrounds of their ELL students. This section critically examines how teachers' awareness of these diverse sociocultural contexts influences their instructional strategies and classroom interactions. The discussion delves into the implications of sociocultural competence for effective ELL instruction, emphasizing how understanding students' cultural and linguistic backgrounds can enrich the teaching and learning process. Furthermore, this section offers concrete recommendations for teachers and educational institutions to bolster the sociocultural dimension of teacher preparedness. These recommendations are aimed at equipping teachers with the skills and knowledge to effectively navigate the multicultural and multilingual nuances of ELL classrooms, ultimately leading to more culturally responsive and inclusive teaching practices.

4.4 Addressing the Pedagogical Knowledge Dimension of Teacher Preparedness

This section delves into the critical aspect of pedagogical knowledge, a cornerstone in the preparedness of novice English Language teachers. It encompasses a thorough exploration of their proficiency in implementing effective instructional strategies, applying differentiation techniques, and utilizing appropriate assessment methods tailored specifically for English Language Learners (ELLs). The discussion critically evaluates the breadth and depth of their pedagogical understanding and skills, probing into how these educators design and execute their lessons to meet the diverse needs of ELL students. Furthermore, this section identifies the pedagogical challenges that these novice teachers encounter, such as adapting instructional methods to diverse learning styles and effectively assessing ELL students' progress. In addressing these challenges, the section offers substantive recommendations aimed at enhancing the teachers' pedagogical expertise. These suggestions are designed not only to bolster their current teaching practices but also to empower them with the skills necessary for continued professional growth in the field of ELL education.

4.5 Cross-Dimensional Analysis: Identifying Overlapping Themes and Interconnections

The cross-dimensional analysis presented in this section seeks to weave together the various strands of teacher preparedness – cognitive, emotional, sociocultural, and pedagogical – to uncover interconnections and overlapping themes. This comprehensive examination investigates how elements in one dimension of teacher preparedness might impact or be influenced by factors in another. For instance, the analysis considers how a teacher's emotional intelligence could affect their ability to understand and incorporate sociocultural elements into their teaching, or how cognitive strengths might enhance pedagogical effectiveness. By exploring these inter-dependencies, the study reveals a more intricate picture of the multifaceted nature of teaching ELLs. The insights gleaned from this cross-dimensional analysis are instrumental in informing more holistic approaches to teacher training and support. They highlight the need for teacher development programs that not only focus on individual dimensions of preparedness but also address the synergistic relationship between these various aspects, thereby fostering a more comprehensive and effective model of teacher education for ELLs.

Overall, this discussion chapter provides an in-depth exploration of the preparedness of novice English Language teachers in Zhejiang Province, China, and offers valuable insights into the cognitive, emotional, sociocultural, and pedagogical dimensions of teacher preparedness. The interplay of these dimensions underscores the importance of comprehensive teacher training and development initiatives to enhance ELL instruction and support student success.

### 5. Conclusion & Proposed Framework

5.1 Conclusion

In conclusion, this conceptual paper has explored the preparedness of first-year general education teachers in Zhejiang Province, China, to teach English Language Learners (ELLs) by examining their cognitive, emotional, sociocultural, and pedagogical dimensions. Through a comprehensive review of literature and theoretical underpinnings, the paper highlights the importance of well-prepared English Language teachers who can effectively address the diverse needs of ELL learners. The proposed conceptual framework provides a theoretical lens to understand the complexities of teacher preparedness in each dimension, setting the groundwork for future empirical studies in this area.

5.2 Proposed Framework

The proposed conceptual framework serves as a guide for future empirical studies on teacher preparedness. It includes an in-depth exploration of the cognitive, emotional, sociocultural, and pedagogical dimensions of teacher preparedness for ELL instruction. Researchers can use this framework to develop research instruments, such as surveys and interview protocols, to gather data from novice English Language teachers. The framework should be used to analyze the data and identify patterns and themes related to teacher preparedness. While there are no empirical findings in a conceptual paper, the proposed framework can serve as a valuable starting point for researchers to investigate the preparedness of English Language teachers in Zhejiang Province, China, and potentially inform the development of targeted support and training initiatives to enhance teacher effectiveness in teaching ELLs.

Future empirical studies should implement this framework to collect data from a diverse sample of novice English Language teachers and explore their perceptions of preparedness. Longitudinal studies tracking teacher growth over time and incorporating feedback from experienced teachers and students can further strengthen the framework's validity and practical application.

Ultimately, this conceptual paper provides a foundation for future research on teacher preparedness and its impact on ELL instruction in Zhejiang Province, China, contributing to the development of effective teacher training and support programs to ensure the success of ELL learners in the region.

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