First of all, we are indebted to the four reviewers and the two clearance readers who helped us enormously to improve the quality of the present manuscript. We are also grateful to Laura Quinn and Helena Heald at Edinburgh University Press both for supporting our work with this book and for helping us to establish the *Edinburgh Studies in Pragmatics* series, which is opened by this monograph. We would also like to say thank you to all those colleagues who contributed to the birth of this book. In particular, we would like to say thank you to Emily Fengguang Liu, who contributed to various case studies involving Chinese learners of English that we present in this book, and all those who agreed to join our case studies as subjects, as well as various colleagues – including Shiyu Liu, Wenrui Shi and many research students at Dalian University of Foreign Languages – who contributed to our research and graciously agreed to give us their precious time.

On an institutional level, we would like to acknowledge the funding of the National Excellence Programme of the National Research, Development and Innovation Office of Hungary (grant number: TKP2021-NKTA-02). This grant, which is the continuation of another one (Momentum Grant of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, grant number LP2017/5) allowed us to collaborate. We would also like to acknowledge the funding of the National Research Development and Innovation Office of Hungary (grant number: 132969). All the above grants have been hosted by the HUN-REN Hungarian Research Centre for Linguistics. Dániel Kádár is also grateful to Dalian University of Foreign Languages for all the institutional support he received.

On a personal note, this book could have never been completed without the many fascinating and original ideas of Willis Edmondson, who unfortunately passed away some years ago. We dedicate this book to Willis. As well as to Willis, we are indebted to our families for all their loving support. Juliane would like to say thank you to Patrick, Miriam, Tessa, Wissem, Mailin, Lucia and Emilia, as well as Bobby. Dániel would like to say thank you to Keiko, Naoka, Zita, András and Eszter, as well as Koma. Thank you all for bearing with us while we spent very long hours in front of our computers.