Workshop

"Chinese Accents and Accented Chinese"

Nordic Centre, Fudan University, Shanghai

26-27 October 2015

Organization

Marjoleine Sloos, Aarhus University (msloos@cas.au.dk)

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Program

Monday 26 October 2015

9:00-9:20	**Coffee/Tea**
9:20-9:30	**Opening**
	Marjoleine Sloos

Session A   *Chinese Dialects: Phonetics and Phonology*

Chair: Xuefeng Zhou

9:30-10:05	**Talk 1** "A Study on the Evolution of "Yi" and "Ying" Initials across Huizhou Dialects: From the Perspective of COMP"
	Huifang Kong

10:05-10:40	**Talk 2** "Spontaneous Nasalization in Chinese Min Dialect"
	Shengyi Wu

Chair: Minghui Wu

10:40-11:15	**Talk 3** "An acoustic analysis of vowels in Kaifeng Mandarin"
	Lei Wang

11:15-11:50	**Talk 4** "Tonal alignment in Shanghai Chinese"
	Bijun Ling & Jie Liang

11:50-13:50	**Lunch**
Session B	*Perceptual Approaches to Sounds Learning and Beyond*

Chair: Marjoleine Sloos

13:45-14:20	**Talk 5** "Discussion on Accent in Phonetics vs. Musicology"
	Xuefeng Zhou & Wen Tian

14:20-14:55	**Talk 6** "English and Thai speakers' perception of Mandarin tones"
	Ying Li

14:55	**Tea Break**

Chair: Chaoju Tang

15:25-16:00	**Talk 7** "The role of native language experience in the perception of L2 speech sounds: The case of the perception of English nasal coda contrasts by Xiang Chinese and Cantonese Chinese learners"
	Minghui Wu

16:00-16:35	**Talk 8** "Aging and Age-Independent Effects of Cognitive and Sociolinguistic Backgrounds: on the Strength of Tonal Systematic Correspondence by Tonal Bilinguals"
	Junru Wu, Yiya Cheng & Niels.O.Schiller

17:15	End of the program

Program

Tuesday 27 October 2015

9:00-9:30	**Coffee/Tea**

Session C *Chinese-accented English: Segmentals and Beyond*

Chair: Minghui Wu

9:30-10:05 **Talk 9** "Stylistic and phonological conditioning of rhoticity among Chinese (Yunnan) speakers of English"

Sundkvist Peter & Man Gao

10:05-10:40 **Talk 10** "Taizhou dialect's transfer in English acquisition"

Beili Yan

Chair: Junru Wu

10:40-11:15 **Talk 11** "Learning the English fricative /ʒ/"

Wenjun Cheng

11:15-11:50 **Talk 12** "Phonological Analysis on the Transfer Effect of Nasal-Lateral Confusion on Sichuanese Speaker's Language Learning"

Chaoju Tang

11:50-13:50 **Lunch**

Session D   *Chinese-accented English or Accented Chinese: Suprasegmentals*

Chair: Wenjun Cheng

13:45-14:20   **Talk 13** "On L2 English Intonation Patterns by Mandarin and Shanghainese Speakers"

Yunyun Ran & Jeroen van de Weijer

14:20-14:55   **Talk 14** "The Influence of Yantai Dialect Tones on the Acquisition of English Intonation"

Yuan Zhang

14:55   **Tea Break**

Chair: Peter Sundkvist

15:25-16:00   **Talk 15** "The Learnability of the English Phrasal Stress-An investigation of the acquisition of Stress-clash Avoidance among Advanced Mandarin English Learners"

Ligang Zhu

16:00-16:35   **Talk 16** "Danish Acquisition of Mandarin Chinese Tones"

Marjoleine Sloos

16:45   End of the program

A Study on the Evolution of "Yi" and "Ying" Initials across Huizhou Dialects: From the Perspective of COMP

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Some rime books indicated that "Yi" and "Ying" Initials in Mandarin have been merged during the Ming and Qing Dynasty. But in Huizhou dialects they are always independent initials. This paper makes an analysis of the diachronic change of the two initials within the framework of New Markedness Theory (COMP). The analysis shows that the sound change chiefly results from the reduction of markedness as well as partial preservation of markedness in the initials. It is the conflict of these two mechanisms that leads to the complex synchronic inventory. The interaction between markedness constraints and faithfulness constraints can produce the right optimal output, which reflects the power of the theory.

Spontaneous Nasalization in Chinese Min Dialect

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Nasal vowels usually develop from vowel +nasal or nasal +vowel sequences in earlier stages, however, there are exceptions that some distinctively nasal vowels may develop from an environment where there's no nasals at all, which was called "spontaneous nasalization". It is a phenomenon that can be found cross-linguistically, such as Hindi, Thai, Lhasa Tibetan, and in this case, Chinese Min. This study presents a case of spontaneous nasalization in Chinese Min dialect. Explanations are that phonetically it may correlate to the occurrences of laryngeal consonants (h or ʔ) and high airflow consonants (e.g. voiceless fricatives) and phonologically the nasal diminutives.

An Acoustic Analysis of Vowels in Kaifeng Mandarin

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This study is an acoustic description of the vowels in Kaifeng Mandarin. The aim of this study is to 1. provide a detailed spectral and temporal analysis of the monophthongs, diphthongs and triphthongs; 2. Evaluate the discrepancies between earlier transcriptions; 3. Examine gender differences and individual variations; 4. Make comparisons with different vowel systems. Target syllables containing all the vowels were imbedded in a carrier sentence and audio data from 20 speakers were recorded for spectral analysis. The average F_1, F_2 and F_3 values and vowel ellipses in the F_1/F_2 plane of monophthongs, and formant trajectories and temporal organizations for the diphthongs and triphthongs were presented. Comparison of spectral characteristics of the vowels occurring in open syllables and those followed by a nasal ending was also examined.

Tonal Alignment in Shanghai Chinese

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In this paper, we investigate the tonal alignment in open syllable (CV) and closed syllable (CVʔ) starting with nasal consonant /m/ and with rising/falling Fo contours in Shanghai Chinese. Results show that a glottal coda shortens the duration of vowel significantly and in order to keep the isochronism of syllable, the duration of nasal consonant /m/ showed a significant compensatory lengthening effect, which makes the duration of consonant longer than vowel in closed syllables. As the onset of tone (rise/fall) normally stayed around the center of the host syllable [12], the onset of tone in closed syllable (T5) located within the nasal consonant /m/, which indicated that the implementation of tone started from the onset of its host syllable rather than from the onset of the rhyme and verified that the whole syllable was the tone carrier.

Discussion on Accent in Phonetics vs. Musicology

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Accent is a word being confused with *stress* in phonetics and musicology in China. In phonetics, *stress* has two different using cases in literatures and dictionaries. On the one hand, *stress*, roughly speaking, it is sound intensity (Wu, 1992). This makes the *stress* equal to sound intensity. On the other hand, *stress* is prominent syllable, such as high pitch (Zhao, 2006), the length of the sound and non-reduction of the sound quality (Wang,2004). The above prominent phenomenon of a pronunciation syllable among adjacent syllables is *accent* (Chen, 1986).That is to say, the *stress* is embodied: "sound intensity" and "accent". However, most dictionaries define *accent* as *stress*, and equal to sound intensity. That is a mistake.

So we discriminated *accent* in different using cases:(1) to summarize the meaning of *accent* in dictionaries; (2) to analyze the using cases in phonetic literatures; (3) to analyze it in musical literatures (e.g. Cheryl, 2001), for example, uncovering the regularity of the length of the sound in rhythmic accent of *kunqu* opera(Zhou, 2015). Then the term, *accent,* will be defined according to above results from summary and analysis.

This study defined *accent* in Chinese context. It is also the first step to prove that Chinese accents, as a syllable-timed rhythm, tightly relate to esthetical principle of looseness.

Chen, Changmao (1986).*Fundamental Linguisitics*.Kaifeng:Henan University Press.

Cheryl, D. Bocanegra (2001). Accent and Grouping Structures in the String Quartets of Béla Bartók. Denton, Texas. UNT Digital Library.

Wu, Zongji (1992) *Modern Chinese pronunciation*. Beijing: Sinolingua Press.

Wang, Hongjun (2004) On the metrical type of Modern Standard Chinese: a type based on looseness. *Linguistic Science*, 10(3), 21-28.

Zhao, Zhongde (2006)*Phonology.*Shanghai: Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press.

Zhou, Xuefeng (2015) Hearing and visual complementation: a discussion of accent in Chinese opera. *Proceedings of International Conference on the Multimodal Experience of Music.* Sheffield: HRI Online Publications, 2015.

English and Thai Speakers' Perception of Mandarin Tones

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Language learners' knowledge of first language (L1) is predicted to display significant effect on their acquisition of a foreign language (Flege, 1995). Yet it is still of debates regarding whether similarities between language learners' L1 and a target foreign language facilitate or impede their acquisition of the foreign language. This study aims to shed some light on this issue from the perspective of tonal study. Specifically, it explores whether tonal language speakers (Thai speakers) are better able to perceive a foreign tonal language (Mandarin) than non-tonal language speakers (English speakers).

24 adult Thai and 21 adult English speakers, who had been studying Mandarin as a foreign language for 1-1.5 years, were recruited as experimental groups. The control group was 10 L1-Mandarin speakers. The participants' accuracy in the perception of Mandarin tones was individually tested with an AXB test. 108 stimuli of /ba/ produced in 4 Mandarin tones were prepared, which were produced by a female and a male L1-Mandarin speaker. According to the results, (1) the experimental groups' perception accuracy was significantly lower than that of the control group. (2) The Thai speakers had significantly better performance than the English speakers both in terms of perception accuracy and reaction time. The tonal similarities between Thai and Mandarin may have facilitated the Thai speakers' accurate perception of Mandarin tones.

The study indicates foreign language learners might be benefited from the similarities between their L1 and the foreign language in the acquisition of tones.

The role of native language experience in the perception of L2 speech sounds

The case of the perception of English nasal coda contrasts by Xiang Chinese and Cantonese Chinese learners

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It is not clear whether and how native language experience shapes the perception of English consonant segments by Chinese learners of English. The present study investigates the role of native language experience in the perception of L2 sounds by comparing fifteen Xiang Chinese and Cantonese Chinese' performance on English nasal coda contrasts to that of 15 Beijing Chinese'. Results showed that: 1) The perception of English nasal coda contrasts was significantly affected by native language experience, i.e., Xiang dialect and Cantonese. 2) The performance of Xiang Chinese and Cantonese Chinese on the perception of English nasal coda contrasts was not significantly different. 3) The perception of English nasal coda contrasts was constrained by both listeners' native language experience and phonetic-universal properties (the effect of vowel quality on nasals): without sufficient native language experience, listeners' perception of nasal coda contrasts was impaired by phonetic-universal properties; conversely, listeners' perception was facilitated by native language experience.

Aging and Age-Independent Effects of Cognitive and Sociolinguistic Backgrounds: on the Strength of Tonal Systematic Correspondence by Tonal Bilinguals

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Standard Chinese (SC) and Jinan Mandarin (JM) are two closely related Chinese tonal dialects, which share many etymologically related translation equivalents, which are usually orthographically and segmentally identical but vary in tonal similarity. The tones of most different translation equivalents are controlled by systematic correspondence rules. The strength of tonal systematic correspondence varies across the bilinguals. We recorded a corpus of JM disyllabic words together with the bilinguals' sociolinguistic backgrounds and cognitive skills. Multi-linear regression models were built including between-word pitch distance of JM words as the dependent variable and linguistic, cognitive, and sociolinguistic backgrounds as the predictors. Sharing tones between two SC words predicted a smaller between-word pitch distance of their translation equivalents in JM, revealing the systematic correspondence mechanism. Older bilinguals tend to have slower digit naming speed, smaller auditory working memory, and poorer tonal awareness, as well as higher JM proficiency and frequency, lower education level, and received literacy education in JM. The strength of systematic correspondence generally decreased with the increase of age and other cognitive and social backgrounds mainly showed effects mediated by aging effect. After statistically removing the contribution of age and other covariants and stratification, age-independent cognitive effects emerged in the middle-age bilinguals who received literacy education in JM, while young bilinguals who received literacy education in SC only showed age-independent frequency effect.

Stylistic and Phonological Conditioning of Rhoticity among Chinese (Yunnan) Speakers of English

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In recent years, the presence and importance of English has increased significantly in China, which is now regarded as belonging to the 'Expanding circles' of English (Kachru, 1982). Although this has triggered scholarly attention to the status, function, and features of English in China, research on pronunciation remains limited (Bolton & Graddol, 2012).

Spoken forms of English are commonly classified as 'rhotic' or 'non-rhotic', depending on whether or not /r/ is pronounced in non-prevocalic positions (e.g. *car, cart*).Although it constitute some of the most salient English pronunciation features globally, little is known about the patterning of rhoticity among Chinese speakers of English. Rhoticity is generally affected by such factors as L1(s), teaching models, and exposure; its presence is often also taken as a sign of growing influence of American English.

This paper presents a study of the pronunciation of English by speakers from Yunnan Province. In part 1, ten non-English major undergraduate students participated in three speech tasks of different formality levels, enabling investigation of inter- and intra-speaker variation. The degree of rhoticity was assessed based on auditory analysis (inter-rater agreement 97%).The results point to considerable inter-speaker variation; they further reveal systematic intra-speaker variation: increasing formality is associated with an increase in the degree of rhoticity. In part 2, additional data was collected to examine phonological conditioning of rhoticity in greater detail. Factors assessed include transference and vowel quality. Finally, implications of the present findings for norm emergence among Yunnan speakers of English (cf. Ao & Low, 2012) are considered.

Taizhou Dialect's Transfer in English Acquisition:

A Comparison between Taizhou Dialect and Putonghua

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In second language acquisition, first language transfer does exist. And local dialects affect Chinese's English acquisition in a great way. This essay first analyses the differences between Taizhou dialect and Putonghua in a phonetic way, and then through the comparison we find out that the blade-palatal /tʂ tʂʻʂʻ/,velar nasal /iŋ əŋ/and retroflex /ʐ/ are missing in Taizhou dialect, while there are also quite a few phonemes missing in Putonghua exist in Taizhou dialect. What's more, obvious differences are also found in final sounds, compound vowels, tones between the two varieties of Chinese language. Based on the differences, we finally come to speculate some important pedagogical implications for Taizhou learners of English.

Learning the English Fricative /ʒ/

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This paper is about Chinese learners production of English voiced fricative sound [ʒ], like the sounds in "usually", "decision". As we know there is no voiced fricative sound in Mandarin Chinese, so it is quite understandable that people from north part of China (Madarine Chinese is based on dialects of northern part of China) can't produce the proper [ʒ] sound, but this should not be the case for English learners in south part of China, because there is a voiced fricative sound "ʐ" in southern Chinese dialect, which at least sounds like [ʒ], but the fact is that southern people don't produce "ʐ"-like "ʒ" sound either, they tend to use the voiceless fricative [ʃ] to substitute [ʒ], actually this questions is complicated and not easy for me to figure out the reason behind for the moment. What factors are the behind this phenomenon, when we learn a foreign language? What affects our mapping and our production of the foreign sounds? I have gathered couple of data from English learners in both northern and southern part of China, and I made an initial analysis based on the data.

Phonological Analysis on the Transfer Effect of Nasal- Lateral Confusion on Sichuanese Speaker's Language Learning

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Sichuan dialect, also Sichuan hua or Sichuanese (with Chengdu hua or Chengdu dialect as its representative) is a sub-branch of South-west Mandarin. It is a general phenomena that there exists the confusion of nasal[n] and lateral [l] in Sichuanese speakers. The confusion is experimentally tested both from the perception and the production. This confusion transfer is apparently a negative effect and it is obviously found for Sichuanese learners in their language learning (the learning of both common languages and foreign languages), especially for those languages with contrast of nasal[n] and lateral [l], i, e. Standard Chinese (or Putonghua), English. Interactive transfer effect for Sichuan native speaker's Chinese and English-learning is also manifested in previous research. Literature review found that the phonetic errors of [n]-[l] confusion for Sichuanese speakers in their language learning were generally attributed to the phonemic differences between the native dialect and the target languages. This paper analyses the phonological changes of Sichuan hua from the mid Chinese period to modern Chinese. The analysis explains the confusion of nasal initial and lateral initial for Sichuanese speakers and explains their language learning errors in different phonological environments.

On L2 English Intonation Patterns by Mandarin and Shanghainese Speakers

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It is generally reported that Chinese learners of English have a rather flat intonation, compared to native English varieties. We regard this as a transfer effect, since intonation in Chinese is also generally quite flat, probably because intonation (the "big wave" – Chao 1933) should not interfere with lexical tones (the "small waves"), or at least not too much. To investigate the effects of differences in Chinese lexical tone systems on L2 English, we recorded English sentences spoken by speakers of Mandarin, a fully-fledged tone language, and by speakers of Shanghainese, where the lexical tones are spread out across the phrasal domain (e.g. Yip 2002). Since in Shanghainese lexical tones play less of a lexical role than in Mandarin, we expect Shanghainese L2 English to show more pitch variation than Mandarin L2 English.

The Influence of Yantai Dialect Tones on the Acquisition of English Intonation

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What distinguishes dialects of Chinese and English is that Chinese is a tone language while English is a stress/intonation language. Both tone and intonation make use of pitch and so some interference is expected when tone language speakers learn to produce intonation in a second language like English. In the light of this fact, this paper discusses the way that Chinese tone influences the acquisition of English intonation, based on the example of Yantai dialect (Shandong Province). To be more precise, Yantai dialect, which is part of the Northern Chinese dialect group, is a tonal language but it differs from Mandarin in that it has three tones, namely a level tone, a falling-rising tone and a falling tone. Based on what we know of the phonetics and phonology of the dialect, the phonetic parameters of the Yantai dialect tones and English intonation will be explored. After analysing those parameters, the idea that Yantai dialect tones influence the acquisition of English intonation is examined. The typical properties of "Yantai English" intonation are presented, as well as some suggestions how Yantai dialect speakers can avoid the influence of the dialect tone system and acquire standard English intonation.

The Learnability of the English Phrasal Stress

-An Investigation of the Acquisition of Stress-Clash Avoidance among Advanced Mandarin English Learners

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Mandarin is distinguished from English in that it is a syllable-timed and stress assignment is not always clear (Chao 1968, Chen, 2000), while English is a stress-timed language. Moreover, English stress is shiftable in some phrasal context which makes it more difficult for Mandarin English learners. (Roach2000:90, Chen 2008).According to phonological studies (Chomsky & Halle 1968, Selkirk 1986, Hayes 1989), phrasal stress is English is derived rather than lexicalized .This is well-attested in stress clash avoidance in English (i.e. NOCLASH). It happens when a lexical word (L_o) changes to a phrasal word(P_o), e.g. Thir'teen=>>'thirteen'man. This article firstly investigates various types of NOCLASH phrases in English, and then collects stress-assignment data through Mandarin English learners' production of lexical words (L_o) and phrasal words (P_o).By contrastive analysis of the informants' results, we expect to show that the acquisition of NOCLASH is more difficult than the acquisition of lexical stress.

Danish Acquisition of Mandarin Chinese Tones

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Second language acquisition of tone in Mandarin Chinese is notoriously difficult for native speakers of a non-tonal language, especially for connected speech. In English-accented Chinese, tones are frequently mixed-up and the pitch range is smaller than in native Mandarin Chinese, although larger than in the speakers' native language. We investigate whether the patterns found in English-accented Chinese are comparable to Danish-accented Chinese. Results show that, although Danish has an extremely flat intonation, Danish-accented Chinese employs a pitch range that is almost as large as native Chinese. The pitch contours indicate that the main difficulty in accurate pitch implementation mainly lies in the timing of the peaks in sentence intonation and the inflexibility of the articulatory system.