

Phonetics Colloquium

23.06.2015

Phonetic-acoustic analysis of L2 German by Chinese speakers and L2 Chinese by German speakers

Phonetic characteristics of the native language are thought to interfere with the production of the second language. There have been many acoustic and perceptual studies examining the effects of Asian languages on the phonetic features of English spoken as a second language. But there exist less acoustic experiments on the interference of Chinese with speaking German as a second language. With the development of mutual communication in academic and economic fields, there are more and more Chinese students learning to speak German and many German students trying to learn Chinese. Because of the phonological difference between Chinese and German, the learners encounter special difficulties in segmental and suprasegmental aspects in L2 speech learning.

In this talk we will mainly focus on some characteristics of L2 German produced by Chinese learners, including vowel contrasts, syllable codas, and some prosodic parameters. Moreover, we will also discuss the problems of German speakers in producing monosyllabic and disyllabic tones in Chinese. The findings can provide some implications for foreign language speech learning.