

Debriefing sheet for the study “Prosodic Boundary Cues in L1/L2 Mandarin Chinese Speech”

This experiment is an example of research in speech production within the second language acquisition (SLA). We are trying to investigate the difference between L1 and L2 Mandarin speech with respect to the pitch reset, pause and syllable duration at various prosodic boundaries. We would like to examine whether L2 learners of Mandarin will transfer their L1 English boundary cues to their Mandarin production. In this way, we can see whether the difference between L1 and L2 boundary cues can account for their foreign accent to some extent and whether L1 and L2 speakers process the discourse structure in the same manner.

The independent variables in this experiment are native language (English or Mandarin), syllable position (at the beginning or end of a clause), and the discourse level (lower, intermediate or higher level). The dependent variables are the pitch reset and syllable and pause duration across the prosodic boundaries.

Thank you for your participation. If you wish to inquire about the results of the experiment later, please feel free to call us at: 614-271-5018 or e-mail us at: yang.1067@osu.edu.