Effect of duration on pre-low raising: Evidence from Cantonese and Thai

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Abstract

Although pre-low raising (PLR) has been extensively studied as a type of contextual tonal variation, its underlying mechanism is barely understood. This paper explores the effect of duration on PLR in Cantonese and Thai, and examines how speech rate and vowel quantity interact with its realization in these languages respectively. Results for Cantonese revealed that PLR always occurred before a large falling excursion (i.e. T1T4); in other tonal contexts, it was observed more often in faster speech. In the Thai corpus, although PLR also occurred before large falling excursions, vowel quantity did not appear to influence its realization. These results are discussed in terms of possible accounts of the underlying mechanism of PLR.

Speaker

Albert Lee is an experimental phonetician working on questions related to the production of speech prosody. He is currently Assistant Professor at the Department of Linguistics and Modern Language Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong (EduHK). He obtained his PhD at University College London under the supervision of Prof. Yi Xu, and taught at the University of Hong Kong and the University of Tokyo before joining EduHK. Albert’s main research interests lie in tone, intonation, vocal attractiveness and second language acquisition, and uses numerous tools such as predictive F0 synthesis and ultrasound imaging. In joint work with Prof. Peggy Mok (CUHK), his recent projects investigate the acquisition of Japanese by Cantonese-speaking learners in Hong Kong.

ALL ARE WELCOME

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