Insights on the Perception–production Link from Studies of Variation and Adaptation

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Date: September 30, 2025 (Tuesday)
Time: 4:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. (Hong Kong Time, UTC +8)
Venue: Swire Hall 2, Fung King Hey Building,
          The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Abstract

How is the way we speak related to the way we listen? Research examining the relationship between perception and production of spoken language has approached this question from multiple perspectives, including language acquisition, auditory feedback alteration, and socio-historical linguistics. In this talk, I will present findings from two projects that explore the perception–production link from the perspectives of socio-phonological variation, phonetic accommodation, and phonetic drift. The first project concerns the production and perception of an innovative vowel merger in Twi (Akan), while the second project concerns production and perception changes in early sequential bilingual speakers of Indian English who are exposed to US English. Taken together, the results of this research are not consistent with a unified perception–production system, but instead support an architecture with separate, albeit connected, perception and production modules. I will discuss implications for theorizing speech representations and designing both research and learning curricula.

Speaker

Prof. Charles B. Chang is Professor of Linguistics at City University of Hong Kong (CityU), where he directs the Phonetics, Acquisition & Multilingualism Lab (PAMLab) group. He joins CityU after professorial appointments at Boston University, SOAS University of London, and Rice University and visiting fellowships at the MARCS Institute for Brain, Behaviour, and Development (Western Sydney University) and the Institute of Phonetics and Speech Processing (LMU Munich). He holds degrees in linguistics and applied linguistics from Harvard University, the University of Cambridge, and the University of California, Berkeley. Funded in part by the U.S. National Science Foundation, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and the Research Grants Council of Hong Kong, his research focuses on phonetic and phonological aspects of language learning, multilingualism, and language attrition in diverse populations of language users (including novice learners, heritage speakers, and long-term expatriates) with a view toward sharpening our understanding of linguistic knowledge and making linguistic theory more inclusive and accessible. Links to publications can be found on his website at cbchang.com.

All Are Welcome

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