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論文題目(中文)：韻律在中文疑問詞句中的角色

論文題目(英文)：The Role of Prosody in Mandarin *Wh*-phrases

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論文摘要

This study tackles the issue of whether Taiwan Mandarin speakers/listeners would employ prosodic cues to differentiate between *wh*-interrogatives and *wh*-indefinites when the lexically ambiguous words surfaced in identical syntactic environment in a discursive speech. While evidence has been reported that prosody interacts with *wh*-phrases from languages like Japanese (Ishihara, 2007; Kitagawa, 2007), Korean (Jun and Oh, 1996), and German (Truckenbrodt, 2012, 2013), less attention has been paid to the prosody in the discussion of Mandarin *wh*-phrases. The goal of the present study aims to address three issues: (i) whether Taiwan Mandarin speakers would utilize prosodic focus to disambiguate readings of *wh*-phrases in identical syntactic environments; (ii) whether prosodic focus (+F) and non-focus (-F) is perceived as *wh*-interrogative (*wh*-Q) and *wh*-indefinite (*wh*-indef.), respectively; and (iii) whether the perception of the prosody of *wh*-Q and *wh*-indef. correlates to the oral production. Consequently, we designed four independent Tasks to address the above issues: a comprehension task in Task 1, two perception tasks (Tasks 2 and 3), and a production task (Task 4). A total of 164 randomly selected participants took part in the 4 Tasks. In Task 1, our results suggested that in identical syntactic environments the intended +F *wh*-Q *shénme* were better identified than -F *wh*-indef., 75% and 42.9% respectively. In Tasks 2 and 3, regardless of whether the intended readings were *wh*-Q or *wh*-indef., the -F prosody was largely rated as natural. Finally, for the production task, the results for *wh*-Q and *wh*-indef. *shénme* were near identical with subtle differences in terms of pitch (F0), pitch contour shape, and duration without significant differences. In addition, the tendency observed for the production task largely corresponds to the perception results: both *wh*-Q and *wh*-indef. *shénme* are near perceived and produced similarly. The study raises interesting questions as to why the prosody of both *wh*-Q and *wh*-indef. was perceived and produced without much difference. It is suggested that prosodic focus does not play a predominant role for determining the ambiguous *wh*-phrases in Taiwan Mandarin; rather the syntactic and contextual cues fare better.

Keywords: *wh*-interrogatives, *wh*-indefinites, prosodic focus, prosodic cues, syntax-phonology interface.