

Acquisition of French prosody by Chinese learners: behavioral and electrophysiological studies

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This talk is about acquisition of French prosody by Chinese late L2 learners and it aims to discuss possible avenues to investigate behavioral and cognitive prosodic performances in French native speakers (NS) and Chinese learners (CL). Specifically, prosodic phrasing performances will be discussed based on the literature and our pilot studies. I will then present acoustic and perceptual studies from global (e.g. baseline, topline of tonal movements) as well as local (e.g. prominence) perspectives to analyze production and perception performances based on our corpus.

In this talk, what electrophysiological methodology tells us about second language acquisition (SLA) will be particularly looked at. Over the past years, EEG has been largely used in SLA research, but the prosodic aspect is still a relatively underexplored field. Therefore, I will give an overview about EEG's advantages and report findings from a series of studies that gave new cognitive evidence in SLA. Finally, I will show how to use an ERP paradigm called CPS (closure positive shift) to examine online processing of French prosodic boundary in NS and CL. The overarching goal of my project is to reveal problems and difficulties in French prosodic phrasing by CL.