

MASTER'S THESIS

Comparisons on the production of word-final voiced obstruents in English by Hong Kong born students and Mandarin Chinese

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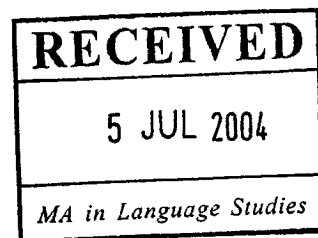
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C.O.

COMPARISONS ON THE PRODUCTION OF WORD-FINAL VOICED
OBSTRUENTS IN ENGLISH BY HONG KONG BORN STUDENTS AND
MANDARIN CHINESE

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Abstract

This study investigates the phenomenon of production of English word-final voiced obstruents by Mainland Chinese and Hong Kong born students. Ten participants' production of voiced obstruents in codas were recorded, studied and analyzed through descriptive statistics so as to figure out the rates of the accuracy and modification of the production of word-final voiced obstruents. Singleton codas were set as the contents of the word list for the subjects. Evidence shows that second language acquisition is affected by interlanguage rules and the native language background of the speakers, as well as linguistic constraints, such as markedness, and sonority, together with natural phonological processes. The findings of this study were also used to compare the phenomenon of producing English voiced obstruents by Hong Kong students and new immigrants from Mainland China. The results of the study generally support the theory proposed by Eckman that the marked structures are more difficult to acquire by both the Hong Kong and Mainland China students. Teachers may use the findings of the present study and provide appropriate guidance to learners of English.

論文摘要

本研究旨在調查並比較內地與香港土生土長的學生在學習英語發音過程中對英語詞尾濁阻塞音的發音特徵。每位參與研究者的發音會以錄音方式紀錄，作為研究分析之用。描述性統計分析的結果，將顯示受試者在準確度及發詞尾濁阻塞音時的變音因素。測試結果證明第二語言的習得是受到「中間語規則」、說話者的母語背景及諸如標記性和響度等語言制約的，當然還會涉及自然音系變化過程。與內地出生和香港本土出生的英語學生比較，證實了 Eckman 的觀察，即：第二語言習得者對有標記結構音位的習得是比較困難的。這些發現，將有助教師理解這類學生在英語發音方面所出現的問題，並在教導該等發音時予以適當的輔導。

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