

Subfield: Language Acquisition and Pedagogy

Format: 20-minute talks

Title: Using Praat-aided corrective feedback to enhance learner engagement in individualized Mandarin Chinese tone practice

Abstract:

Computer-assisted pronunciation training (CAPT) has been recognized as a constructive instructional intervention in foreign language classes but its effectiveness was mostly displayed by comparative outcome improvement between quasi-experimental groups. Learner engagement, particularly the concurrent, individualized behavioral and affective changes during CAPT, remains underexplored, which, however, makes a big difference to long-term mastery of foreign language pronunciation. Our talk draws on Mayer's multimedia learning theory and Dörnyei's motivational self-system to discuss Chinese as a foreign language (CFL) learners' motivation and vision construction when trained with Praat-aided corrective feedback as pronunciation materials (PM) for tone practice. We will introduce a study conducted with nine second-year Chinese language students who employed Praat-generated audiovisual tones to practice dialogue lessons and self-penned skits after class. Thematic analysis of semi-structured interviews showed that the use of PM changed how long and in what ways each student interacted with multimedia course materials, alongside which they were afforded opportunities to develop motivation, confidence, and future selves in speaking Chinese. Whether and to what extent they embraced PM depended on their learning habits and interpretation of PM helpfulness informed by their understanding of digital pedagogies. The findings of the study depict CFL learners' behavioral and affective co-adaptation in a classroom-based CAPT. Our talk will also summarize the lessons learned from Praat-aided tone correction and material design to imply how to utilize computer-generated multisensory input and emerging AI tools to facilitate learners' performance-based self-construction in formal language learning.

Keywords:

Computer-assisted pronunciation training; Learner engagement; Praat; vision construction; Chinese as a foreign language