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Experiments on the modular nature of word and sentence phonology in Chinese Broca's patients

Liang, J.

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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift

*Experiments on the modular nature of
word and sentence phonology in Chinese Broca's patients*

van

Liang Jie

1. Lexical tones and sentence intonation both have vocal pitch as their primary phonetic correlate, so that they compete for the same resource. Languages with a rich word-tone inventory only have limited use of intonation, whilst languages with few or no tones use sentence intonation on a more elaborate scale. Loss of lexical tones results in increased use of sentence intonation.
(this dissertation)
2. Native speakers of Uygur, a non-tone language, discriminate between statement and question intonation in Chinese utterances faster than native Chinese listeners. The Uygurs are faster as they are not distracted by the lexical tones, which are meaningless to them.
(this dissertation)
3. The specification of segmental and tonal aspects of lexical entries in Chinese, and in tone languages in general, are located and/or processed separately in the brain.
(this dissertation)
4. Aphasic speakers with unilateral damage in the left hemisphere suffer from a structural deficit in the mental representation of the lexical tones, which can be compared with the structural deficit of L2 speakers regardless of their exposure to the target language (long or short), and their native language (tone or non-tone language).
(this dissertation)
5. There is no reasonable argument by which speakers of a tone language should have a stronger tendency to develop absolute pitch than speakers of a non-tone language.
(contra Deutsch, D., Henthorn, T., & Dolson, M. Absolute pitch is demonstrated in speakers of tone languages. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 106, 2267 (1999).
6. Research on language and creativity meet in the field of aphasia, since aphasic patients necessarily have to invent new and creative linguistic expressions in order to communicate.
7. In principle stress and tone are mutually exclusive parameters in a typology of word-prosodic systems.
8. If Chinese were included in the curriculum of secondary schools in the Netherlands (instead of French and German together) Dutch nationals would be able to communicate with more than half of the world's population.