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English as a lingua franca: mutual intelligibility of Chinese, Dutch and American speakers of English

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Citation
Wang, H. (2007, January 10). *English as a lingua franca: mutual intelligibility of Chinese, Dutch and American speakers of English*. *LOT dissertation series*. LOT, Utrecht. Retrieved from https://hdl.handle.net/1887/8597

Version:	Not Applicable (or Unknown)
License:	Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden
Downloaded from:	https://hdl.handle.net/1887/8597

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

English as a lingua franca: Mutual intelligibility of Chinese, Dutch and American speakers of English

Published by
LOT
Janskerkhof 13
3512 BL Utrecht
The Netherlands

phone: +31 30 253 6006
fax: +31 30 253 6406
e-mail: lot@let.uu.nl
http://www.lotschool.nl

Cover illustration: Plot of vowels in formant space produced by American speakers of English (see Chapter five)

ISBN: 978-90-78328-20-9
NUR 632

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English as a lingua franca: Mutual intelligibility of Chinese, Dutch and American speakers of English

PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van
de graad van Doctor aan de Universiteit Leiden,
op gezag van de Rector Magnificus Dr. D.D. Breimer,
hoogleraar in de faculteit der Wiskunde en
Natuurwetenschappen en die der Geneeskunde,
volgens besluit van het College voor Promoties
te verdedigen op woensdag 10 januari 2007
klokke 13.45 uur

door

WANG HONGYAN

geboren te Tongliao, China
in 1967

Promotiecommissie

promotor:	prof. dr. V.J.J.P. van Heuven
referent:	prof. dr. ir. L.C.W. Pols (Universiteit van Amsterdam)
overige leden:	prof. dr. A.P.A. Broeders
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	prof. dr. Liu Yi (Shenzhen University, P. R. China)
	dr. J.M. van de Weijer

The first year (2002/03) of the research reported in this dissertation was financially supported by a grant from the China Scholarship Council (12-months stay at the LUCL phonetics laboratory). During the second year (2003/04) the author was financially supported by a Delta scholarship from the Leiden University Fund (LUF). During the final two years of the research the author received a scholarship from the Leiden University Centre for Linguistics (LUCL).

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Preface

One day in the first month of my stay at LUCL I was asked at a lunch table how well Dutch and Chinese speakers could understand each others' English and how it would be if compared with American speakers and listeners. I did not expect then that this would be the topic of my dissertation and that it would take me four years to answer these questions. Neither did I realize at the time how much these questions would broaden my mind as a researcher.

This dissertation would never have become what it is now if I had not received so much support, help and love from so many people around me. Saying "Thank you" from the bottom of my hearth will only begin to express the gratitude I feel towards the people who have contributed to the realization of this book.

Academically, I would like to thank Dr. Valérie Hazan from University College London, who sent me materials for my experiments and provided comments on the results; Prof. Jan Hustijn from Amsterdam University, who gave me one year's lectures on second-language acquisition and many light-shedding questions; Prof. Jim Flege from the University of Alabama, Birmingham and Prof. Ann Cutler from the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics at Nijmegen for pointers to relevant literature and for personal encouragement; Prof. Jason Zhang from Shanghai Normal University for help with Chinese phonology.

My main experiment was run in three different places, i.e., in Jilin University, China, Leiden University, the Netherlands and UCLA in the USA. I very much appreciate the help from Prof. Bob Kirsner at UCLA and from Prof. Fu Guifang at Jilin University. Thank you both for contacting informants for me. I also thank all my informants in these three universities. Without their help this book could never have been written

These acknowledgement may not end without expressing my heart-felt gratitude to my second home in the past four years, the simple but cozy phonetics lab and to all my friends there working together with me, helping me and keeping me inspired. I have never been in an office for such a long time before and I have never so much enjoyed the friendship from everyone there. I thank Liang Lei, who guided me on my first days. I thank Lilie Roosman, who was like a sister to me in hard times doing hard work. I thank Jason Zhang, who helped me with many problems in life and in research; he left the lab before I did but he has never been away from my heart, which is still full of gratitude. I thank my roommates Rob Goedemans and Elisabeth Mauder, my dearest hero and "witch". I thank my dear Ellen, Vincent, Maarten, Jos, Gijs, Jurgen and Johanneke. I thank you and your families for your care and encouragement.

A special word of thanks is for my Dutch friend Marieke, who used to encourage me by saying "The last steps are made of lead" – which adequately captures my current feeling. Thanks to all the people who are helping me now during the final stages of the work, my aunts, my cousins, my sisters and brothers in Shenzhen, Tongliao and Changchun.

Thanks are also due to my parents, who gave me a strong character. I thank my daughter, Ziru, the angel of my life; thank you for being with me and always encouraging me.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the China Scholarship Council, the Leiden University Fund for its Delta scholarship and LUCL for your financial support during the years on my research.