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3-5

4

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1.5

“Abstract”

Times New Roman

1.5

“Abstract”

Word

1.5

Abstract

1

2

3

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6

word

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- A (article from anthology)
- C (collected papers)
- D (dissertation)
- J (journal article)
- M (major work)
- N (newspaper article)
- P (patent)
- R (report)
- S (specification)

Z

CP (computer program)

DB (database)

EB (electronic bulletin board)

CD (CD-Rom)

DK (disk)

MT (magnetic tape)

OL (online)

C/OL

CP/DK

DB/MT

DB/OL

EB/OL

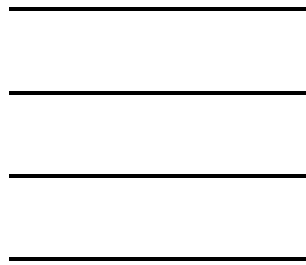
J/OL

M/CD

N/OL

“Times New Roman”

1.5



LZ

212 213

113 223

Z-score

“Abstract”

Abstract

Hai'an dialect, a subdivision of Tai-Ru dialect (or Tong-Tai dialect) of Jiang-Huai Mandarin, is geographically distributed over the edging area between Mandarin and Wu dialects. There have been few inquiries into this dialect to date, and conclusions of different dialectologists appear to contradict one another and thus need verification and rectification. This paper is an acoustic probe into the neutral-tone sandhi patterns of Hai'an, aiming for objective empirical findings that help resolve the contradictions in traditional dialectology.

This paper is organized as follows:

The first is the introductory and stage-setting chapter, which first gives a summary of earlier understandings about the phonological attribute of neutral tone. Then it continues to introduce previous research findings on acoustic properties of neutral tone and provide an overview of earlier investigations into the neutral tone sandhi in Hai'an. After that, it presents a theoretical illustration on such key aspects concerning experimental research of tone as the tone-bearing segment, the recognition of tones, and the normalization of fundamental frequency. Finally, it describes the objective, methodology and procedures of this empirical research.

Chapter 2 is devoted to the empirical research into Hai'an citation tones, centered around the description of their pitches and tone duration. The first step is to extract F0 statistics from the recordings, then the logarithmic Z-score transform for F0 normalization (hereinafter referred to as LZ method) is employed to deal with the statistics so as to obtain the LZ values, which are further transformed into the familiar tone digits, a five-point vertical scale representation. Finally, a comparison is made between the results of this paper and earlier knowledge in all the literature available. Our empirical findings show that the Rising tone in Hai'an is not a dipping (falling-rising) tone traditionally represented with the pitch values 212 or 213, but an essentially low-rising tone, whose empirical pitch values are 113 and 223 for male and female respectively. As for the duration of Hai'an citation tones, among the smooth tones, the Rising tone is the longest of all, yang Level tone and the Departing tone in

the middle, and yin Level tone the shortest, while the checked tone yin Entering tone is of longer duration than the other checked tone yang Entering tone.

Key words: Hai'an dialect; neutral-tone sandhi patterns; the logarithmic Z-score transform

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