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研究課題名(和文)Mutual intelligibility among non-native speakers

研究課題名(英文)Mutual intelligibility among non-native speakers

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研究成果の概要(和文):日本の大学が国際化するにつれて、東アジアの学生の間、英語使用が多くなりました。この研究は、日本の大学で勉強している日本人学生と留学生との間の英語における発音を研究の対象とし、明瞭的な発音を特定しようとします。明瞭性に関する研究はたくさんありますが、相互行為において、明瞭的な発音はいかにいじされるかということはほとんど研究されていないので、本研究は大きな研究ギャップを満たします。この研究はJournal of Second Language PronunciationにもInternational Journal of Applied Linguisticsにも掲載されています。

研究成果の学術的意義や社会的意義

This research is the first that demonstrates that segmental repairs are not used with equal frequency, that the difference in usage could be a reflection of the relative utility of the purpose of each type of segmental repair, that segmental adjustments are not of equal frequency.

研究成果の概要(英文): English usage among students in eastern Asian has become more ubiquitous as universities in Japan internationalize. Intelligible English speech is necessary for such interactions to succeed and the bare minimum requirement to interact with someone else is to be an intelligible English speaker. Although research on the intelligibility of Asian English speakers abounds, one connection that has been understudied is the triangular relationship between pronunciation, intelligibility, and interaction. This research intends to fill that lacunae in the research literature.

研究分野: English Education

キーワード: Phonetics Intelligibility Pronunciation

様 式 C-19、F-19-1、Z-19、CK-19(共通)

1.研究開始当初の背景

English usage among students in eastern Asian has become more ubiquitous as universities in Japan internationalize. Intelligible English speech is necessary for such interactions to succeed and the bare minimum requirement to interact with someone else is to be an intelligible English speaker. Although research on the intelligibility of Asian English speakers abounds, one connection that has been understudied is the triangular relationship between pronunciation, intelligibility, and interaction. This research intends to fill that lacunae in the research literature.

2.研究の目的

This research aims to identify the relative importance of adjusting pronunciation intelligibility in English as a Lingua Franca contexts. Intelligibility is defined as (and operationalized as) understanding pronunciation regardless of accent. In order to do so, this study will quantify the interactional moves that speakers make to maintain mutual intelligibility (segmental repairs) and the segmental adjustments speakers make to their pronunciations to remain mutually intelligible (segmental adjustments).

3.研究の方法

This qualitative and quantitative pronunciation study applies conversation analytic methodology to the examination of mutually intelligible pronunciation among undergraduate students at a Japanese university, and then quantifies the segmental repairs and segmental adjustments that were required to maintain intelligibility in English as a Lingua Franca interactions. In the qualitative portion, sequential analysis was used to ascertain the segmental repairs that were utilized to maintain mutual intelligibility and to identify the pronunciations that interactants oriented to as unintelligible and intelligible, which can then be compared in order to determine the segmental adjustments that changed an unintelligible pronunciation into an intelligible one. In the quantitative portion, the segmental repairs and the segmental adjustments were quantified in order to assess which kinds of segmental repairs and segmental adjustments are most frequent.

Non-parametric statistical analyses followed the quantification of the segmental repairs and adjustments to determine which repair and adjustments were most frequent (i.e., most important).

4. 研究成果

This research revealed the following. First, research suggests that the maintenance of mutually intelligible pronunciation is partially based on the negotiation of mutually intelligible phonetic form among the speakers, which is reflected by reactive segmental repair as the most common segmental repair strategy in this corpus. Preemptive, reversion, and serendipitous non-segmental repairs are not frequent. If relative frequency is a reflection of relative utility, then the fact that reactive segmental repair is more frequent than the other types of segmental repair suggests that it was more useful for the purposes of the kinds of interactions within the corpus. That is, the results show that these speakers were more concerned with resolving interactionally salient mutual intelligibility problems (reactive segmental repair) and less concerned with resolving potential mutual intelligibility problems (preemptive segmental repair), potential mishearings rather than genuine intelligibility problems (reversion segmental repair), or resolving a mutual intelligibility problem through non-phonetic means (serendipitous non-segmental repair). This study is the first that demonstrates that segmental repairs are not used with equal frequency, and that the difference in usage could be a reflection of the relative utility of the purpose of each kind of segmental repair.

Furthermore, certain kinds of segmental repairs seem to be much more common than other kinds. he most frequent adjustment is segmental phoneme modification. This suggests that when pronunciation intelligibility was oriented to as a problem within the interactions, speakers most often chose to modify the existing segmentals within the trouble source rather than add or delete new segmentals. This interpretation is bolstered by the fact that the frequency of segmental deletion was extremely rare. That is, the speakers in the corpus rarely had to remove any extraneous segmentals from the pronunciation in order to maintain mutual intelligibility. These two pieces of evidence, that segmental modification is utilized to a statistically significant degree and that segmental deletion is not utilized to a statistically significant degree, demonstrate that the trouble source pronunciations were often already very phonetically close to the pronunciations that were eventually oriented to as mutually intelligible. This study is the first to demonstrate that segmental adjustments are not of equal frequency, and that the difference between the frequencies of segmental adjustments is statistically significant.

5 . 主な発表論文等

[雑誌論文](計 2件)

- O'Neal, G. (2019). The accommodation of intelligible segmental pronunciation. Journal of *Second Language Pronunciation*, 5(1), 119-138.
- O'Neal, G., & Matsumoto, Y. (2019). Beyond Intelligibility: Transintelligibility Phenomena in English as a Lingua Franca interactions. *International Journal of Applied Linguistics*, 29, 44-60.

[学会発表](計 2件)

- 1)O'Neal, G. (2018). The Interaction Hypothesis and Pronunciation Intelligibility in ELF. Annual English as a Lingua Franca conference, London, England.
- 2) O'Neal, G., & Matsumoto, Y. (2018). Beyond Intelligibility: 'Transintelligibility' Phenomena in English as a *Lingua Franca* Interactions. Sociolinguistics Conference, New Zealand, Auckland.

〔図書〕(計 件)

〔産業財産権〕 出願状況(計 件)

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取得状況(計 件)

名称: 発明者: 権利者: 種類: 番号: エ得年: 国内外の別:

〔その他〕 ホームページ等

6. 研究組織

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所属研究機関名:

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