

Abstract

The present study aims to investigate whether there is any cultural difference in the pattern of overlapping speech for the three cultures: Guangzhou, Hong Kong and USA. 120 subjects were given a shipwreck scenario and 15 survival items to discuss. Seven measures were developed to investigate the overlapping speech pattern among the three cultures. They were the single overlapping speech, complex overlapping speech, partial overlapping speech, complete overlapping speech, agreement, disagreement and unauditable overlapping speech. Result showed that only Guangzhou females had a significant different pattern of overlapping speech, particularly when it was compared to the Hong Kong groups. Implications of these findings were discussed.