

Abstract

Previous literatures have shown that tonal language speakers are more likely to perceive absolute pitch. However, the reverse relationship of how does musical pitch perception associate with lexical tone processing in tonal language (i.e. Cantonese) remained unclear. In the present study, a pitch matching task and phonological awareness tasks of tone, onset and rhyme in Cantonese were conducted. Sixty Cantonese speakers were divided into music group ($N=35$) and non-music group ($N=25$). The result proved the hypothesis that there is a correlation in response time of musical pitch and lexical tone processing for music group, while the non-music group did not. This finding suggested music players may attain the ability of transferring their musical pitch perception to lexical tone processing.