

Abstract

This study investigates the effect of social interaction and physical attractiveness of the opposite sex opponent in the interaction on voice pitch, which is the fundamental frequency of women. Female participants first recorded speaking a text (the baseline, non-social interaction condition), then recorded a voice message speaking to a man (the social interaction condition) that was presented as either physically attractive or unattractive (the physical attractive versus unattractive condition). The study was carried out on Dutch and Hong Kong Chinese, to examine cultural differences. Result showed that women spoke with a lower pitch when delivering a neutral text than when engaging in social interaction. However whether the target being spoken to was attractive or not did not affect pitch significantly. Both Dutch and Hong Kong Chinese demonstrated the same pattern of findings. However, result shows a negative correlation between self-attractiveness rating and fundamental frequencies that the more attractive the participant rates herself as, the less she raised her voice in interaction.