

Abstract

The relationship between the pitches, both absolute and relative pitches, and Chiu Chow tone discrimination between Cantonese-speaking adult musicians and non-musicians was investigated. Four experiments were conducted to examine the relationship. The musicians and non-musicians were asked to discriminate the Chiu Chow tone and identify the tone using absolute and relative pitch cues. Musicians were also asked to do an explicit absolute pitch test. The result showed that musicians outperformed non-musicians in tone discrimination and relative pitch contrast test. Besides, there was a relationship between the tone discrimination and implicit absolute pitch among non-musicians. The results led to an open question that musical trainings will affect which pitch cues a tonal language speaker will rely on.