

Research methods in investigating voice onset time (VOT) in second language pronunciation

Tetsuo Harada

Description

Voice onset time (VOT) can be a distinctive or non-distinctive feature, depending on languages, and the investigation of VOT shows how second language (L2) learners develop this language-specific feature and develop their first language (L1) and L2 phonological systems. This workshop will overview the history of VOT studies in L2 pronunciation, bilingual acquisition of VOT, and implications for L2 phonetics and phonology. It will also cover research methods in investigating VOT, including ways to prepare for a word list, data collection, measurement issues, the use of Praat, and data analysis. The presenter will clarify these important issues through hands-on activities.

Learning Outcomes

Participants in this workshop will be expected to learn through lectures, discussions, and hands-on activities several important tips on designing a study on VOT and analyzing VOT, including 1) how to select target words, 2) the number of words and tokens required, 3) tips on measuring VOT, using Praat, and 4) statistical analysis of VOT (e.g., how to control for speech rate).

About the presenter

Tetsuo Harada is a professor of Applied Linguistics in the Graduate School of Education at Waseda University, Japan. His research concerns second language phonetics and phonology, with a focus on phonological development of English and Japanese in one-way and two-way immersion programs.