

VIEW COMMENTS FROM EXTERNAL REVIEWER**Project Number :** 25606117**Project Title :** Mental representations of Chinese tones: abstract vs. episodic accounts**PI Name :** Dr POLITZER-AHLES, Stephen**Section A : Detailed Comments****1. Please comment on the objective(s) of the proposal, and whether the research agenda adequately addresses the objective(s)?**

Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments:

The experiments outlined in this proposal are very carefully planned to test the objectives of the study, which in turn are relevant and ask important questions within the research field.

2. Please comment on the Research Design and Methodology.

Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments:

The research methodology was carefully selected to address the research questions. While in studies using ERPs it is not uncommon to find complicated designs whose findings are contradictory (even within the same study) it is refreshing to see how the PI has planned to investigate important questions using a research design involving few conditions and straightforward predictions. It is also good to see that the PI has included replication studies with different stimuli for experiments 1 and 2.

3. Please comment on the feasibility of the proposed research.

Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments:

A relatively large number of participants is required to complete the study within the allotted time, which may be a challenge. However, it may well be possible to observe effects of sufficiently large effect size by testing fewer participants than indicated by the results of the power analysis. It is important nonetheless that the PI did carry out such an analysis and planned his data collection accordingly.

4. What do you consider to be the most original or innovative aspect of the proposed research? What advances would the research result bring about to the related field if the proposed research is successful?**Comments:**

The question about the lexical status and the underlying mental representations of various surface forms that correspond to lexical items and non-words is a very important one for theoretical reasons, and for its implications for understanding language processing in various contexts, including language learning and disorders. The innovative aspect of the proposed study consists of the focus on tone, and the exploitation of the tone sandhi phenomenon to formulate clear predictions about the outcomes of the study, depending on whether the representation of the target speech items is abstract or episodic.

5. Please comment on the reasonableness of the proposed budget and manpower planning and project duration.**Comments:**

The budget and the timeline for completing the project seems, in consideration of the relatively large number of participants.

6. Overall Comments

Overall Comment :
Overall, this is a strong, well argued proposal.

Strength:

See comments at point 4. Another strength, and a highly commendable aspect of this proposal, is that the PI has planned to carry out replication studies, given that the ERP literature (and human research literature in general) consists of many published findings that were subsequently not replicated.

Weaknesses:

The only potential weakness may occur if the results of experiments 1b and 2b will not fully replicate those of experiments 1a and 2a. In this case, it might be a challenges to explain the discrepancy. Nevertheless, it is very important and intellectually honest of the PI to take this risk.

Suggested improvements:

None

Section B : Summary of Assessment

The project :

Scientific/scholarly merit	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Duration Proposed	Too Long	Appropriate	Too Short		
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Impact of Research	High	Moderate	Low	None	
	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

The principal investigator :

Ability to undertake the proposal	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Track record in field	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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