

Mandarin third tone sandhi may be incompletely neutralizing in perception as well as production

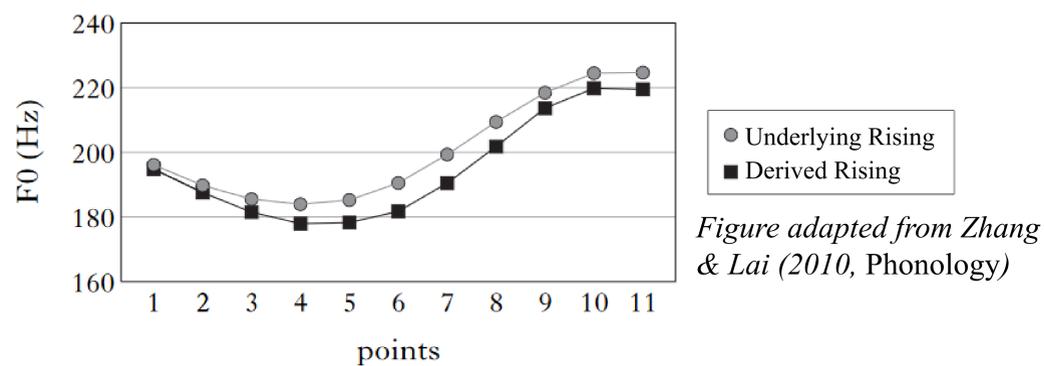
Stephen Politzer-Ahles¹ (sjpolit@polyu.edu.hk), Katrina Connell², Lei Pan³, Yu-Yin Hsu¹

¹The Hong Kong Polytechnic University; ²The Pennsylvania State University; ³Nanyang Technological University

International Congress of Phonetic Sciences 2019

Tone neutralization in Mandarin

Mandarin Low tone is neutralized with Rising tone in some contexts, but the neutralizing is incomplete:

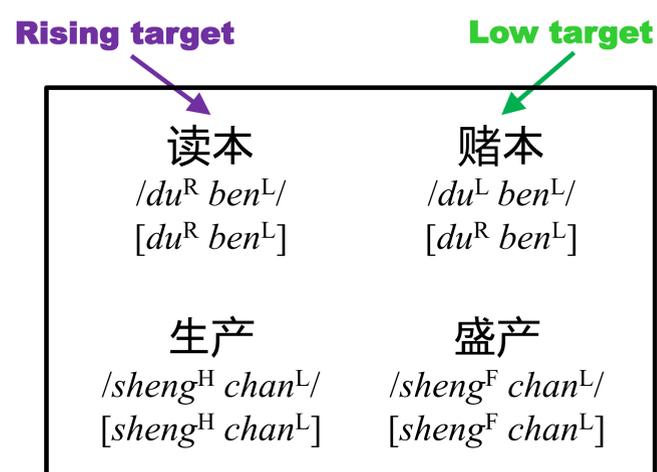


In metalinguistic judgments, listeners seem unable to recognize the difference (Peng 2000, among others, but see Speer & Xu, 2008)...

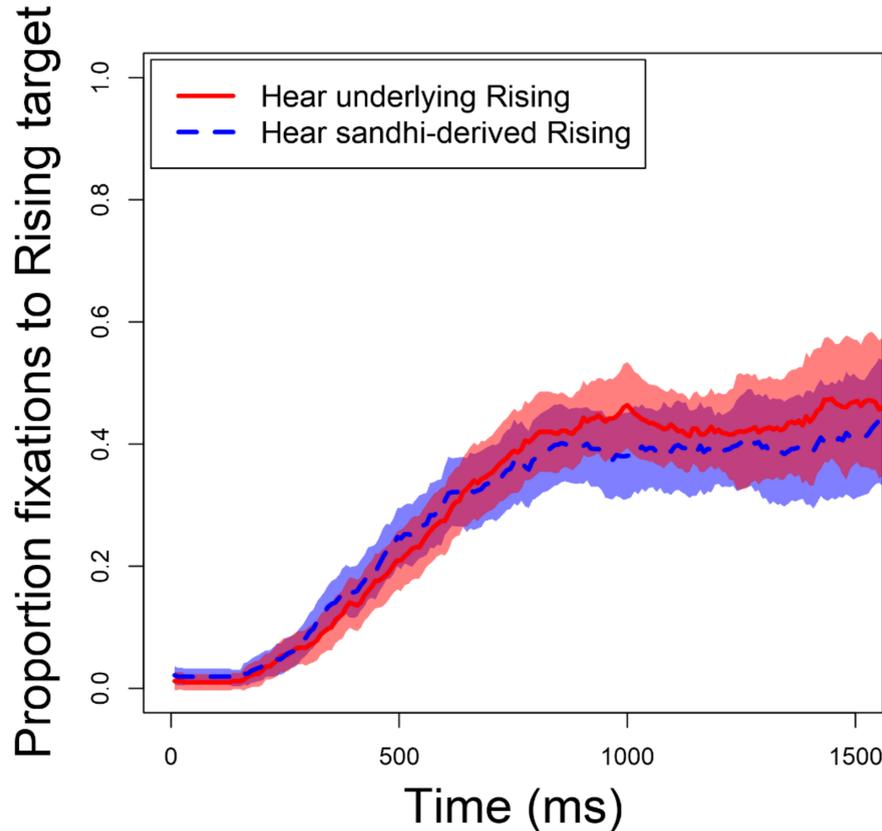
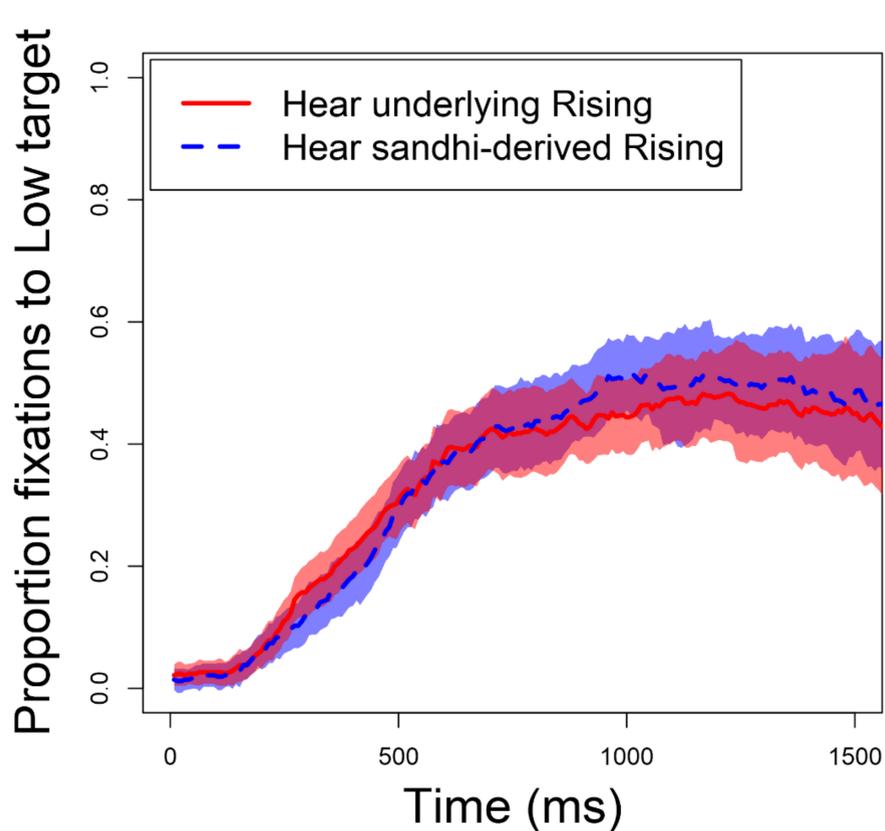
What about in visual world eye-tracking?

Present study

Participants listen to productions of two-syllable words with either an underlyingly Rising tone, or a Rising tone derived from the neutralization process



Results (N=60): Slight sensitivity to acoustic differences!



But check out the F0 tracks and fixation patterns for individual items...

Not all items are neutralized in production, and an item's production does not predict its perception...

