

Regularity and Congruency effect in Cantonese speakers' phonological knowledge of Mandarin words

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Correspondences exist between Cantonese and Mandarin at the sublexical level (i.e., onset, rime and tone) and it was proposed that Cantonese speakers employ both lexical and sublexical route in producing L2 Mandarin words. The involvement of the sublexical route was examined in a Mandarin pinyin transcription task using words which either employ a dominant (i.e. regular) or non-dominant (i.e. irregular) corresponding relationships in different sublexical units. More errors were found for irregular than regular words for all sublexical units. In addition, whether the L1 and L2 sublexical units of the same word are pronounced the same in the two languages (i.e. congruency) had an influence on error rate, though with a strength mediated by the knowledge of Mandarin phonotactic constraints. The results give support and add further constraints to the use of the sublexical route in L2 Mandarin word production