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**Speak Mandarin in a “*hǎotīng*” way:
a new textbook on Mandarin prosody**

Abstract

In TCSL, most attention is devoted to teaching grammar, vocabulary and Chinese characters. Teaching pronunciation is mostly limited to a focus on isolated syllables (initials + finals), four tones, tone sandhi rules and the neutral tone. The features of connected speech, such as stress, grouping, intonation, information structure or pragmatic aspects, which have crucial linguistic and communicative functions, are left to self-study. Since a systematic methodology and adequate teaching materials devoted to addressing these concerns are absent, I have compiled the textbook *Speak Mandarin in a “haoting” way: prosody of colloquial Mandarin* (in Czech, in print). The aim of the book is to improve students’ fluency, naturalness and communicative abilities. Topics such as perceptual-acoustic parameters of stress/non-stress, the relationship between stress/non-stress and tone, weakening of function words, phrasing, intonation, and information structure are presented in an accessible manner and draw on the linguistic research in the field. The textbook is based on my own experience in teaching Mandarin prosody.

The prosodic phenomena are explained using ca. 80 sentence examples recorded by a native Beijing speaker. They also exist as audio files on a memory stick that accompanies the text (the whole text is available there, too). All sentence examples are transcribed in a newly designed prosodic transcription (CHIPROT). It marks prominence of particular syllables (emphasized-normal-weakened), and grouping (prosodic words and prosodic phrases).

Example:

这是茶碗，那是饭碗。

Zhè shì cháwǎn, nà shì fànwǎn. (plain Hanyu Pinyin)

Zhè-shì CHÁwǎn //, nà-shì FĀNwǎn. (CHIPROT)

The textbook also includes numerous illustrations by a Chinese painter. This presentation will introduce the general features of the textbook and its methodological approach. It will show that the teaching of Mandarin prosody can be achieved in a thorough, yet accessible and user-friendly manner. In the future an English edition has been planned. In the meantime the comments and suggestions of colleagues will be collected.

keywords: textbook, teaching Chinese pronunciation, Mandarin prosody, prosodic transcription

summary: The presentation introduces a newly compiled textbook *Speak Mandarin in a “haoting” way: prosody of colloquial Mandarin* (in Czech). Topics such as stress, phrasing, intonation, and information structure are presented in an accessible manner, drawing on the linguistic research. All sentence examples were recorded by a native Beijing speaker and transcribed in a newly designed prosodic transcription CHIPROT. Available on memory stick.