

7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Study Days on Chinese Linguistics  
Italian Association of Chinese Linguistics

**Bergamo, September 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

University of Bergamo, Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures

## **Let's mind features of connected speech: Chinese prosodic transcription CHIPROT**

abstract

Features of connected speech such as stress, phrasing, intonation, and information structure have crucial linguistic and communicative functions. Yet these features are seldom given attention in L2 teaching in general, and in TCSL in particular. Students often tend to produce Chinese utterances as a series of fully tonic syllables of equal prominence with incorrectly placed breaks. To help learners become more natural and fluent I have designed a prosodic transcription CHIPROT for L2 teaching purposes. It is based on Hanyu Pinyin and was inspired by an older system designed by prof. Oldřich Švarný. CHIPROT is a useful instrument for transcribing the recordings of common colloquial utterances / dialogues containing high-frequency words, produced at a natural speech tempo. It can be used by teachers for preparing various pedagogic materials. CHIPROT reflects fundamental prosodic features of fluent speech, namely the degree of prominence of particular syllables (four degrees: *ba*, *bā*, *bǎ*, *Bǎ*, see Trísková, 2019), and grouping (prosodic words and prosodic phrases). It is rather iconic and easy to implement / use after receiving certain metalinguistic instruction and practice. This paper will introduce the major features of CHIPROT. It will be demonstrated how recorded utterances can be transcribed.

CHIPROT was already implemented in the textbook Trísková, 2021 (in Czech; English translation is in progress). There are more than 80 utterances transcribed by means of CHIPROT. The book will be briefly introduced at the end of the presentation.

Trísková, Hana. 2019. "Is the glass half-full, or half-empty? The alternative concept of stress in Mandarin Chinese." *Studies in Prosodic Grammar*, 2019 (Vol. 4), No. 2.

Trísková, Hana. 2021. *Mluvte čínsky hezky: prozodie hovorové čínštiny*. [speak Chinese with ease: prosody of colloquial Chinese] Praha: Academia Publishing House, 2021.

example of CHIPROT:

|                                     |                      |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 你的那只钢笔在哪儿?                          | (Chinese characters) |
| <i>Nǐde nèi zhī gāngbǐ zài nǎr?</i> | (plain Hanyu Pinyin) |
| <i>Nǐde nèi-zhī gāngbǐ zài-NǎR?</i> | (CHIPROT)            |

May 22, 2022