



Tongue Kinematics in Diphthong Production in Ningbo Chinese  
(ABSTRACT)

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This paper investigates some kinematic aspects of the tongue articulators during diphthong production in Ningbo Chinese. Acquired EMA data from six speakers show that the average velocity and the peak velocity of the lingual articulators roughly characterize the Ningbo diphthongs, given that the falling diphthongs and rising diphthongs are considered separately. The time to peak velocity serves as a better criterion in distinguishing the falling diphthongs from rising diphthongs. Generally, peak velocities of the lingual articulators occur late in falling diphthongs while occur early in rising diphthongs. The short diphthong production is characterized by an acceleration of the lingual articulator. And results suggest that the time to peak velocity is quite constant under the duration reduction.

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