



EFFECTS OF FOCUS UPON DURATIONAL PATTERNS OF FIVE-SYLLABLE
WORDS IN STANDARD CHINESE (ABSTRACT)

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This paper explicitly examines the influence of focus on durational patterns of five-syllable words with various positions and different tones in Standard Chinese. Target sentences were constructed with the focused constituents locating at the beginning of the sentences. For the within-word syllables of the focused constituents, they were designed in various positions in the words and associated with the tones of tone1, tone2 and tone4. Results of the experiments show that although focus induces significant lengthening of the focused constituents, the internal durational adjustment of each focused syllable is by no means symmetric and the magnitude of such lengthening is determined by the metrical structure of the focused constituents.

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