Phonological Explanations on the Pronunciation Errors of the Chinese Learner: Focusing on the Korean Liquids in Syllable Boundary

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I. Introduction

The general L₂ learners have the rigid phonological systems of their own languages. To L₂ learners, therefore, pronunciation of target language in native speaker’s way is the task requiring large burden. If the phonological distance exists between L₁ system and L₂’s, the burden becomes heavier.

A Chinese learner who aims at Korean language also has some struggles as the general L₂ learner. Chinese language has the exact contrastive aspects of the Korean phonological system that causes some difficulties. It causes the errors that Chinese learner pronounces primarily.

One of the prominent aspects in Korean pronunciation error that Chinese learner makes frequently is related to the liquid pronunciation. There are two types of liquid, that is, ‘l’ and ‘r’, in both languages. In Korean phonological system, however, they are the allophones of a phoneme, whereas in Chinese they are two different phonemes. These aspects that both phonological systems have the similarity and distinctiveness simultaneously cause the difficulty in Korean liquid pronunciation.