

Aspects of perception of single vowels in the Seoul dialect by Yanbian Korean speakers
- Based on auditory phonetic methods -

Abstract

This study used auditory phonetic methods to clarify how Yanbian Korean speakers perceive the single vowels of the Seoul dialect. Yanbian Korean is one of the Korean dialects, but it shows differences from the Seoul dialect, which is known as the base of the standard Korean, in some phonemes. Regarding single vowels, it has been reported that there are large differences, especially in the sound values of /ɔ/ and /o/. However, it is not yet clear whether Yanbian Korean speakers can accurately perceive the vowel /ɔ/ and vowel /o/ in the Seoul dialect. Therefore, in this study, we used a perceptual experiment by using the sound recorded by a male Seoul Dialect speaker (8 monosyllabic single vowels and 8 bisyllabic words in which the target vowels appear in the second syllable), to observe how Yanbian Korean speakers (There are three men and three women as informants) perceive single vowels containing the vowels /ɔ/ and /o/ in the Seoul dialect, then clarified the differences in single vowel systems between Yanbian Korean and Seoul dialect.

As a result, regardless of gender, Yanbian Korean speakers perceived the vowel /ɔ/ in the Seoul dialect as the vowel /o/, the vowel /o/ as the vowel /u/, and the vowel /u/ as the vowel /ʉ/. This appears to be happening at a fairly high rate. In other words, Yanbian Korean speakers have difficulty in accurately distinguishing the vowel /u/, in addition to the vowels /ɔ/ and /o/ of Seoul dialect speakers. The perception error between vowels /ɔ/ and /o/ might be the result of the order of the vowel height of the vowels /ɔ/ and /o/ being reversed between Yanbian Korean and Seoul Dialect, but further research should be needed. The perception errors that occurred in the vowels /o/ and /u/ might be relevant to the merge of vowels /o/ and /u/ now occurring in the Seoul Dialect. Furthermore, almost all Yanbian Korean speakers perceived the vowels /ɛ/ and /e/ in the Seoul dialect as vowels /e/. This seems to be since the differences in sound values between two vowels have disappeared in the Seoul dialect. In conclusion, it can be said that the above-mentioned aspects are the result of the differences in vowel systems between Yanbian Korean and Seoul dialects.

Keywords: Yanbian Korean, experimental phonetics, F1/F2, single vowel, perceptual experiment