

# Battling Negative Transfer of American English in Learning and Teaching Chinese

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# Battling Negative Transfer of American English in Learning and Teaching Chinese

- Negative Transfer
- Negative Transfer of American English
- Overcoming Negative Transfer  
(beginners)

# Overcoming Negative Transfer

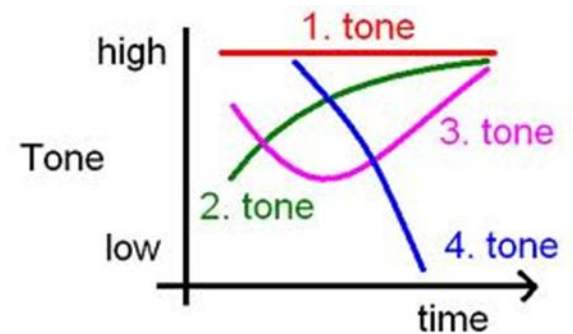
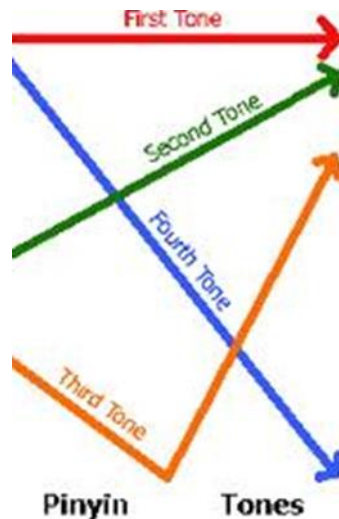
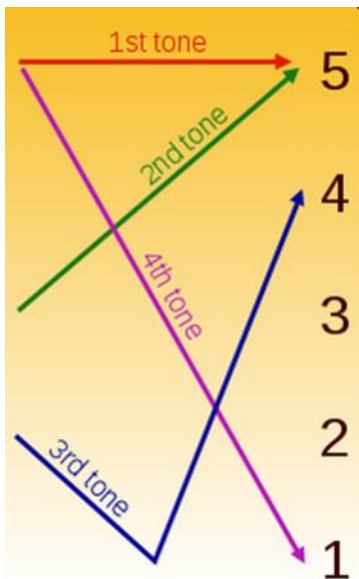
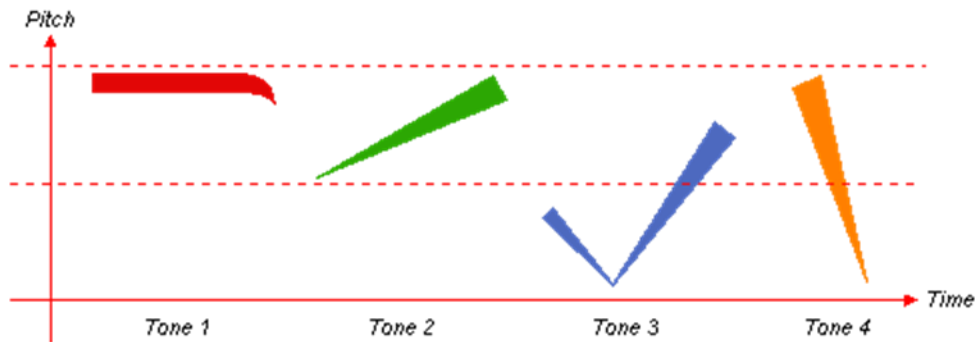
- Discerning patterns of negative transfer
- Finding similar elements in both languages
- Distinguishing differences
- Producing non-existing sounds

# Negative Transfer

- Transfer
- Negative Transfer (for beginners)
  - Pronunciation (tones; *pinyin*)
  - Conversation—sentence structure

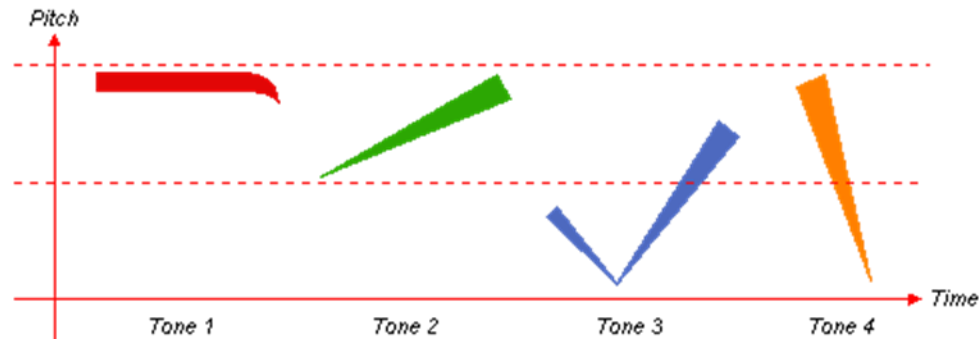
# Negative Transfer of American English

- Pronunciation (tones)



# Negative Transfer of American English

- Pronunciation (tones)
  - Most challenging: the third tone (sandhi)



# Overcoming Negative Transfer

- Pronunciation (tones)

- There are at least two tones in English:

- rising (/) & falling (\) tones

- e.g. Huh? (/)

- Hmmm... (\)

- What? (/)

- Why? (\)

- Most challenging tone: V

- Yes? (V)

# Overcoming Negative Transfer

- Pronunciation (tones)
  - Neutral tone vs. unstressed syllable (English):

e.g. 爸爸

bàba

认识

rènshi

学生

xuésheng



# Negative Transfer of American English

- Pronunciation (*pinyin*)

Providing sound references  
(Blackboard posting)

<http://www.tudou.com/programs/view/DAtqp3jPqkU/>

汉语拼音字母表

声母表

b	p	m	f	d	t	n	l
g	k	h	j	q	x	zh	ch
sh	r	z	c	s	y	w	

韵母表

a	o	e	i	u	ü	ai	ei
ui	ao	ou	iu	ie	üe	er	an
en	in	un	ün	ang	eng	ing	ong

整体认读音节

zhi	chi	shi	ri	zi	ci	si	wu
yi	yu	ye	yue	yuan	yin	yun	ying

# Overcoming Negative Transfer

- Pronunciation (*pinyin*)

Taking advantage of similarities

– Z

- = ds (bea**ds**)

– C

- = tz (trea**ts**)

– zh ch sh **r** (ran vs. run in English)

- = vi**s**ion [3 ]

# Overcoming Negative Transfer

- Pronunciation (*pinyin*)

Taking advantage of similarities:

– g k h                      j q x

q = cheese

x = sheep

# Overcoming Negative Transfer

- Pronunciation (*pinyin*)

Differentiating differences:

– g k h                      j q x

– eng ong (vs. [ɔŋ] )

e.g. gong [gɔŋ]

hong [hɔŋ]

long [lɔŋ]      vs.

lóng

# Overcoming Negative Transfer

- Pronunciation (*pinyin*)

Producing sounds that don't exist in English

- ü      üe      ün

# Negative Transfer

- Negative Transfer
  - Conversation—sentence structure

e. g. 他说得汉语比我说流利。

他是高比他的弟弟。

她比她朋友喜欢极了中国音乐。

我们系少七十五个学生比他们系

# Overcoming Negative Transfer

- Negative Transfer
  - Conversation—sentence structure

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# Overcoming Negative Transfer

- Negative Transfer
  - Conversation—sentence structure

e. g. 他们都喝咖啡也。



# Battling Negative Transfer of American English in Learning and Teaching Chinese

## Conclusions

For beginning Chinese learners to overcome negative transfer in oral communication:

- Finding similar elements in both languages
- Distinguishing differences

# Thank you!

- Questions?

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