
**abstract**

Chinese is a tone language. Its pronunciation is rather difficult to acquire. The author explores specific problems related to teaching / learning Chinese pronunciation. The following topics are addressed: Hanyu Pinyin latinization; Chinese syllable structure; pronunciation of difficult initials; the finals and their classification, pronunciation of difficult finals; four tones (the third tone in particular); stress and non-stress; relationship between tone and stress; junctures and their role in speech perception; the important role of unstressed Chinese function words and their features; rhythm of connected speech; sentence intonation. Finally the concept of “phonetic chunks” is introduced.