

FUNDAMENTAL FREQUENCY OF CHINESE AND INDIAN SPEAKERS IN MALAYSIA

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This study aims to quantify the fundamental frequency characteristics of Chinese and Indian Malaysian young adults, in the production of sustained vowel /a/, oral reading and spontaneous speech. The purpose of this research is to determine mean fundamental frequency, highest fundamental frequency, lowest fundamental frequency and phonatory range of the speakers. This study also sought to explore the factors of ethnicity and voice sample variation on pitch parameters of speech production. Subjects were 30 men and 30 women volunteers, ranging in age from 20 to 25 years. Central tendency and dispersions values were obtained with a fundamental frequency analyzer, Multi-Dimensional Voice Programme 4305. No significant mean differences between the Chinese and Indian speakers were found using one-way ANOVA statistical test. Mean fundamental frequency values were found to be significantly different between all 3 different voice samples using t-test. Pitch used for production of sustained vowel /a/ was highest, followed by oral reading and prompted spontaneous speech for female subjects. On the other hand, the male subjects used a higher pitch for oral reading, followed by sustained vowel, and spontaneous speech.

Pang, M.L. 2002. Fundamental Frequency of Chinese and Indian Speakers in Malaysia. Bachelor of Speech Science Thesis. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.