

Abstract

Past research showed that music and language were closely related and musical experience could modulate timbre inference on pitch perception. The purpose of this study is to examine if possessing tonal language is another modulator. Tone language speakers and non-tone language speakers were recruited to determine how four types of pairs of tones: same-pitch-same-timbre, same-pitch-different-timbre, different -pitch-same-timbre and different -pitch- different -timbre, were changed. Results show that tonal group does not significantly undergo less timbre inference on pitch perception. Explanations are made based on the difference between perception of lexical and musical tones and also the importance of pitch in non-tone languages. Implication of present study is that it is consistent to opinion that language to music effect on pitch perception may not be very strong.