Ewa Kusz

Musical Intelligence and its impact on English pronunciation skills in the process of second language acquisition.

The following study has the objective of providing a comprehensive examination of the convergence between musical intelligence and pronunciation ability of a second language from various perspectives. The major aim of this work was firstly to review the empirical contributions that demonstrated the existence of an interdependence between musical intelligence and language, especially in terms of L2 pronunciation skills in the process of second language acquisition, and secondly to confirm or refute this hypothesis on the basis of our own research.

Bearing the above in mind, the present work has been divided into five chapters. The first, *The concept of intelligence and approaches to its study*, intends to provide an organising and integrating framework for the chapters in the remaining parts. Thus, it raises epistemological issues concerning various concepts of intelligence and it provides a rather comprehensive history of the general field of intelligence and attempts at measuring it. Also, it focuses on delineating the nature of human intellect as it relates to and is defined by society and culture.

The second chapter moves into a detailed description of the theory of Multiple Intelligences proposed by Howard Gardner with particular reference to musical intelligence. This chapter also constitutes an attempt at describing the relationship between musical intelligence and other intelligences in order to relate this type of human intellect to broader contexts. Additionally, this part of the study is largely concerned with the issue of measuring musical intelligence, thus the most popular musical intelligence tests (Seashore's, Wing's and Gordon's) are reviewed. The last two subsections of the second chapter delve into the relationship between musical intelligence and the process of second language acquisition, especially in terms of pronunciation skills. It must be mentioned that there are some unforeseen challenges in describing L2 pronunciation assessment due to the piecemeal contributions of individual researchers on the one hand, and a strong need to develop toward acceptance of the inevitability of the use of automated speech recognition technology on the other.

Chapter three presents a literature review regarding the convergence between musical intelligence and second language pronunciation skills, as well as the assessment of speaking.

A detailed description of the prosodic features of speaker accentedness is the "prelude" to the methodology of this research, which provides information on the number of participants, the types of instruments utilised in the study and finally the experimental procedure.

Among a number of areas of phonetic research, the fourth chapter, *Research results*, takes into consideration some of the most problematic issues, including the convergence between musical intelligence and pronunciation skills, and secondly, the assessment of pronunciation. The first part of this chapter focuses mainly on the results obtained from Wing's musical intelligence test, whereas the second pays attention to the outcomes of the pronunciation test (measured both by three independent native speakers and by *Praat*).

Last but not least, chapter five delves into a detailed discussion and a comprehensive interpretation of the obtained results and empirical contributions which show the relationship between the level of musical intelligence and L2 pronunciation ability.

13. 10. 2017

Ewa Kurx