

Abstract

The subject of this thesis is perceptual sensitivity with respect to subtle frequency-based and temporal manipulations in speech, music and mixed stimuli. We hypothesize that an individual's sensitivity to variation in all three types of stimuli should be similar (i.e. a correlation should exist), seeing that findings in evolutionary biology, neurosciences, psychology and experimental phonetics are pointing towards a relatively strong link between the mechanisms of perception in speech and music. Our listening experiment revealed mostly intermediate correlations; additionally, we argue that by employing syntactically less complicated stimuli, which would target specifically fundamental sensitivity without requiring a complex syntactic analysis in parallel, even more robust correlations could be obtained. While the influence of prior formal linguistic education on performance in the test was negligible, the influence of musical experience was considerable, which lends further support to the idea of simplifying especially the music stimuli in future research.

Key words: music, speech, perception, sensitivity, correlation