A REPLICATION OF GOH (2000)

Goh asked 40 Chinese-speaking university level learners of English to report on their listening difficulties.

She analysed the difficulties reported in relation to Anderson’s (1990) three-phase model of listening:

1. Perception
2. Parsing
3. Utilisation

She found that perception accounted for half the problems overall, and that less proficient listeners found perception particularly difficult.

PERCEPTION
PARSING
UTILISATION

WHY REPLICATE?

- Part of the ‘SLA For All’ initiative, taking stock of and remedying sampling bias in applied linguistics.
- In a very small field (listeners’ perspectives on their difficulties), over half of all citations of previous work have been of Goh’s paper.
- Yet, its participants are the ‘usual suspects’: university students learning English.

We found these reported difficulties in relation to PERCEPTION, PARSING, UTILISATION:

- Can’t hear clearly
- Can’t concentrate
- Speed of delivery
- Sound-spelling link
- Miss the start*
- Segmentation*
- Miss the next bit when thinking about previous part*
- Forget quickly*
- Lack of vocabulary
- Lack of grammar
- Text at odds with previous understanding*
- Understand word but not sentence*

* Match Goh’s sample’s difficulties

We found these reported difficulties in relation to:

- Task demands

When we compared the difficulties of the most and least proficient learners, we found:

- The least proficient reported only half the number of difficulties reported by the most proficient listeners
- Difficulties reported by the most proficient listeners were more precise and succinct

WE CONCLUDE

Our pilot found both similarities and differences with Goh’s (2000) study. Main data collection to begin Sept 2020.