Part B: Project Summary

Project Title: **Perceptual and acoustic characterization of Hong Kong English pronunciation errors, deviations and accent of primary school (P.5 & P. 6) students**

Organization: University of Hong Kong/Faculty of Education/Centre for Communication Disorders

(1) Goals: To establish a new pedagogical regimen for spoken English curriculum that is tailor-made for native Cantonese-speaking primary school children.

Objectives:

Short-term goal:

1. To develop and publish a mispronunciation database of English sounds associated with native Cantonese-speaking primary 5 and 6 students based on large-scale acoustic and perceptual analyses of error patterns;
2. To identify the needs of pronunciation correction and accent reduction training;
3. To help improve existing pedagogical curriculum of primary school spoken English; and
4. To educate parents, teachers and educators about professional phonetic analysis and acoustic phonetics, the needs and feasibility of accent reduction by scientific means.

Long-term goal:

To construct a complete developmental landscape of the current state of Hong Kong English accent, with the ultimate goal of:

1. formulating a framework for assessing the English pronunciation errors, deviations and accent,
2. developing an attainment scale to accredit the degree of native-like pronunciation,
3. introducing a scientific English accent reduction curriculum for both students and teachers.

(2) Targets:

Expected beneficiaries: All primary school and secondary school students and teachers, university English language teachers and researchers.

Immediate beneficiaries: 1,000 primary 5 and 6 students, 50 non-native and 50 native English teachers and 10 English educators and academics

(3) Implementation Plan:

   i. Duration: 2 years

   ii. Schedule: Setting up project team (1st-2nd month); Liaison (1st-5th month); speech data collection (5th-17th month); web programming & maintenance (1st-24th month); Perceptual evaluations & acoustic characterization (9th-18th month); research & development (3rd-20th month); Production or deliverables & dissemination of results (15th-24th month)

   iii. Collaboration: University of London, Waseda University, University of Basel

(4) Products:

   i. deliverables / outcomes
- web-accessible recorded speech data of primary (P5 & P6) students in Hong Kong
- distribution of patterns of errors probed by perceptual evaluations and acoustic characterization
- experience of teachers and participants shared on web platform and published in monographs
- web forum for uploading comments and discussion on certain speech data and results

   ii. dissemination of deliverables / outcomes: seminars, workshops and internet

   iii. attainment scales, assessment manuals released in the forms of booklets and CDs.

(5) Budget:

Staff Cost	$ 995,268
Services	$ 248,000
Equipment	$ 63,900
General Expenses	$ 70,032
Total	**$ 1,377,200**

(6) Evaluation:

   i. A steering committee will be set up to monitor the overall progress of the project.

   ii. Questionnaire survey and interviews with participating school heads and teachers will be conducted to monitor effectiveness and impact of the various components of the professional development.

   iii. External experts will be consulted to evaluate the quality of the work.