

Trip to Aarhus (Denmark) for New Sounds 2016

It was a very exciting June this year as A group of us from SELLL (Jiang Xinliang, Yuta Ebizuka and Rebecca Lim) and ECLS (Nisit Khampikul) presented the results of our study titled *Does Frequency Matter? An Exploratory study of first exposure to Urdu* at New Sounds 2016, a prestigious international phonetics conference held in Aarhus, Denmark. New Sounds is a convention for researchers internationally to discuss and share issues related to the teaching and learning of second language phonetics, phonology and pronunciation. It is held every three years and covers a broad variety of themes, listed in the conference website (<http://conferences.au.dk/newsounds2016>).

In our study, our results suggested powerful adult learning mechanism, similar to other studies in the field. Apart from sharing our results, we also got to rub shoulders and engage with other passionate and enthusiastic researchers, who shared their findings with everyone. Overall, it was a successful and fruitful trip as we bonded over common interests (linguistics!) and gained much experience and knowledge in the studies of phonetics and phonology, which would definitely contribute to our own research and studies. The warmth of the Danes and the glorious Danish weather quickly won us over and every day was just full of smiles and positivity.

We have also made a short clip detailing the trip and conference, at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rza9rv-IKxg>. We would also like to thank CRiLLS in supporting us, as well as Professor Martha Young-Scholten for her valuable guidance. Finally, we would like to thank all the other colleagues who were involved in the study but did not manage to join us for the trip (Azza, Eva, Tianxiu, Hajar and Mansour).