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## Aviation English Training in China: Current Trends, Challenges, and Future Directions

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# Aviation English Training in China : Current Trends, Challenges and Future Directions

**Xiaoning Guo**

# 01

## Current Trends and Challenges





# Training Program

- 4-year college degree education targeted for high school graduates, with 2.5 years of ground theory training and 1.5 years of flight training domestically or internationally.
- Occupational training targeted for college graduates with compacted 6 months of ground theory training and then approximately 1 year of flight training aboard or domestically.



# Aviation English VS General English

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- Curriculum indicates that student pilots in their 2.5 years of ground theory study spend 2 hours daily either on General English or Aviation English or both. Weekly time ratio between aviation English and general English is 1:1.
- However, when it comes to routine English conversations, their instructors point out that their performance are not quite satisfactory whether it is GE based or AE based.



# Courses and Class Hour



Grade	Term	Course	Total class hour	Week time
1	Autumn	Flight English	36	2
		CEIR	36	2
	Spring	Flight English	54	3
		RT	54	3
		CEIR	36	2

CEIR: College English Intensive Reading



# Foci of Concern

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- **Listening comprehension** and **oral proficiency** are foci of concern by civil aviation schools in China since these two abilities are a prerequisite and foundation for pilots' smooth radio communication with air traffic controllers.

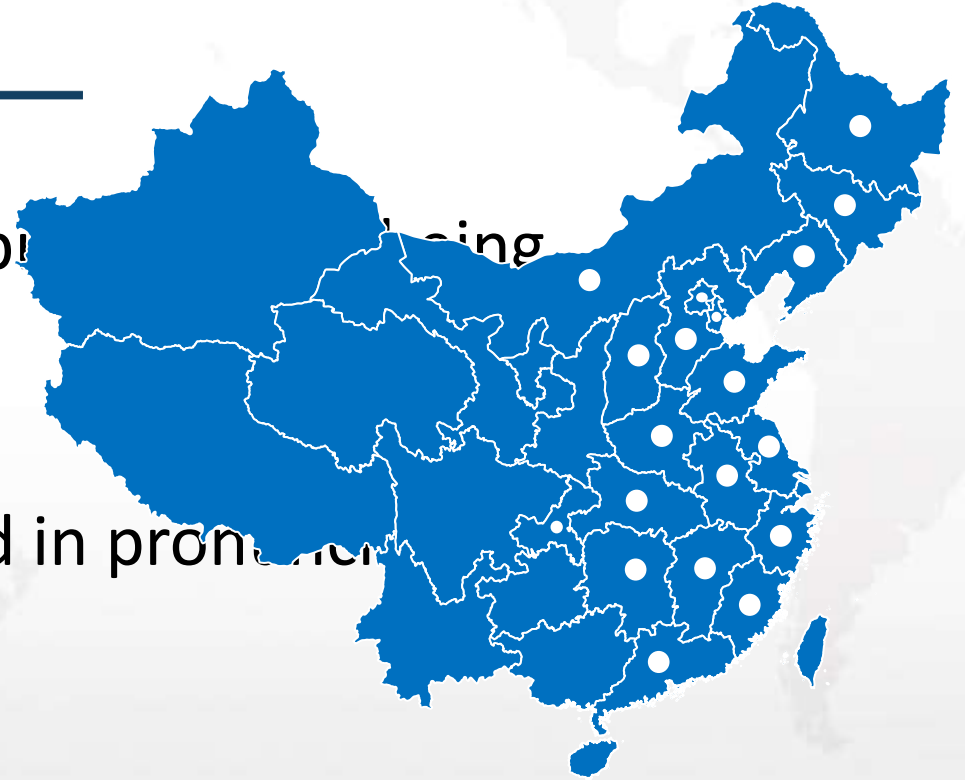
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# Pronunciation

- Students' Intelligibility and comprehensibility complained by their flight instructors.
- AE teachers follow ICAO LPR as a standard in pronunciation, phraseologies and terminologies.
- Super-segmental feature should be put into focus along with segmental features.







# Comprehension Abilities



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- Air ground communication “articulate with extra clarity often tend toward syllable-timing with grammatical word made prominent, and an even rhythm throughout.” Crystal (1995) .
- Syllable-based rhythm is easier to acquire for Chinese AE learner and often helps them comprehend sound track of real time air-speak.



# Comprehension Abilities



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- **Rate of speech** and **varieties of dialects** pose some major problems for student pilots.
- Pilot English Proficiency Examination in China : 100-120 words per minute
- Controllers in US: 150 or more.
- Coping with dialect of English in China and abroad



# Plain Language Instruction



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- Plain English challenge the Chinese student pilots to the utmost difficulties in real-life non-routine situation.
- A Chinese student pilot's experience
- Expansion of vocabularies of AE and how words learnt in classes can be activated and put into effect in real air-speak environment.



# Template Sentences

- We have difficulty in ...
- We have difficulty in controlling cabin pressure.
- We have a ... problem.
- We have a cabin altitude problem. (flight control, avionics)

# 02

## Future Directions





# Application of Corpus in AE



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- Construction and application of corpus in AE are in upswing in China
- Construction of AE corpus in the field of students' oral test performance



# Simulating RT Environment

Aviation English teaching and learning platform to be developed based on flight simulator.

- Advantages:
- 1 encourage pilot to learn by doing and speaking
  - 2 provide authentic and engaging learning environment
  - 3 targeted language are incorporated into flight mission



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Thank You



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