

Prof. Chie Obuchi

Professor

Institute of Human Sciences

University of Tsukuba

+81-75-753-5922

obuchi.chie.fu@u.tsukuba.ac.jp

<https://trios.tsukuba.ac.jp/ja/researcher/4909>

Causes and treatments for hearing or listening problems

Abstract

Hearing is essential for communication in daily life. Individuals with hearing loss often find it difficult to participate in conversations and may experience feelings of loneliness and anxiety. Advances in hearing device technology, including hearing aids and cochlear implants, have significantly benefited individuals with hearing loss by helping them overcome hearing-related challenges.

However, certain individuals experience not hearing loss, but listening difficulties. These individuals typically have normal audiograms but report about difficulties understanding speech in noisy environments. Such symptoms are often referred to as auditory processing disorders or listening difficulties and have been associated with poor cognitive abilities. It is important to note that hearing and listening are distinct processes: hearing is passive, whereas listening is active and requires cognitive functions such as attention and memory. Treatment options include environmental modifications, the use of hearing-assistive devices, and auditory training. However, selecting appropriate methods based on the underlying cause is essential. I will introduce the differences between hearing and listening problems, discuss their causes, and present related treatment approaches.

CV

Chie Obuchi is a Professor of Human Sciences at University of Tsukuba in Japan. She has a speech-language-hearing therapist and certified psychologist, and provides medical and educational supports for children and adults with hearing and listening problems. She graduated from Rikkyo University with a B.D. in Psychology, Tokyo Gakugei University with a M.D. in Special Education, and completed her Ph.D. in Disability Sciences from University of Tsukuba. Her research interests include establishment of assessment and management for people with listening difficulties /auditory processing disorder, auditory and cognitive perception abilities for older adults using hearing devices, and language and communication development for children with hearing loss. She has also recently started a business to provide support for people with listening difficulties. (Listening Support : <https://listening-support-1.jimdosite.com/>)