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1.Most Downloaded

Infant-directed speech in English and Spanish: Assessments of monolingual and bilingual caregiver VOT

Abstract

It has been shown that monolingual caregivers exaggerate acoustic speech cues in infant-directed speech (IDS), but less is known about the characteristics of IDS in late second-language (L2) bilingual caregivers. Furthermore, there is inconsistency in the literature regarding voice onset time (VOT) of stop consonants in IDS. The present study explores VOT of English and Spanish stops in English monolingual and Spanish-dominant bilingual caregivers, in infant- versus adult-directed speech registers. Both monolinguals and bilinguals exaggerate VOT in IDS; however, different patterns are noted across consonant type and language context. Also, bilinguals produced English stops with Spanish-like and English-like properties, depending upon their L2-proficiency. The characteristics of late-L2 Spanish–English bilingual IDS may create a complex phonetic environment for infants, which may in turn affect the perception and later production of stop consonants in dual language-learning infants.

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2. Recent Article

Articulatory mechanisms underlying onset-vowel organization

Abstract

Previous research on articulatory correlates of syllable structure suggests that the temporal organization of syllables varies as a function of the segmental make-up of the onset cluster, yet there is currently little understanding of the details conditioning this variation. We pursue the hypothesis that consonantal coarticulation resistance is one such segment-based determinant of onset-vowel timing. In order to test this we recorded articulography data for Polish and systematically varied the coarticulation resistance of C2 in #C1C2V clusters. We examined singleton and cluster onsets with different vowel-adjacent consonants in terms of temporal lag measurements as done in previous studies as well as in terms of tongue body position measurements. Both analyses revealed parallel results and substantiate the hypothesized interaction of coarticulation resistance of the vowel-adjacent consonant and onset-vowel organization. We discuss how this interaction between articulator dominance and temporal overlap can be modeled within the gestural approach to syllable organization by giving a novel interpretation to the coupling strength parameter in terms of coarticulation resistance.

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3.Most Cited

Evidence for phonetic and social selectivity in spontaneous phonetic imitation

Abstract

Spontaneous phonetic imitation is the process by which a talker comes to be more similar-sounding to a model talker as the result of exposure. The current experiment investigates this phenomenon, examining whether vowel spectra are automatically imitated in a lexical shadowing task and how social liking affects imitation. Participants were assigned to either a Black talker or White talker; within this talker manipulation, participants were either put into a condition with a digital image of their assigned model talker or one without an image. Liking was measured through attractiveness rating. Participants accommodated toward vowels selectively; the low vowels /æ / showed the strongest effects of imitation compared to the vowels /i o u/, but the degree of this trend varied across conditions. In addition to these findings of phonetic selectivity, the degree to which these vowels were imitated was subtly affected by attractiveness ratings and this also interacted with the experimental condition. The results demonstrate the labile nature of linguistic segments with respect to both their perceptual encoding and their variation in production.

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4.Open Access Article

Car-talk: Location-specific speech production and perception

Abstract

Some locations are probabilistically associated with certain types of speech. Most speech that is encountered in a car, for example, will have Lombard-like characteristics as a result of having been produced in the context of car noise. We examine the hypothesis that the association between cars and Lombard speech will trigger Lombard-like speaking and listening behaviour when a person is physically present in a car, even in the absence of noise. Production and perception tasks were conducted, in noise and in quiet, in both a lab and a parked car. The results show that speech produced in a quiet car resembles speech produced in the context of car noise. Additionally, we find tentative evidence indicating that listeners in a quiet car adjust their vowel boundaries in a manner that suggests that they interpreted the speech as though it were Lombard speech.

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