

Perceiving second language speech

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Motivation

- Better understand the factors that contribute to listener perceptions of second language pronunciation
- Comprehensibility = ease of understanding
- Accentedness = degree of foreign accent
 - Related but distinct speech dimensions
 - Does transcribing speech reduce the processing 'costs' of having a foreign accent?

Project Description

- Collect comprehensibility and accentedness ratings from listeners
- Compare ratings from two groups
 - Those who write down the speech
 - Those who do not write down the speech

Context

- Most studies use comprehensibility as a proxy for intelligibility (actual understanding)
- So far only indirect evidence that transcription impacts rating relationships
- We test directly using crowdsourcing (AMT)



160 Listener-raters from Amazon Mechanical Turk will rate second language learner speech samples for accentedness and comprehensibility

Results will be compared to prior ratings that included a transcription task (Huensch & Nagle, 2021, 2022)



Does writing down what you hear change how you rate the **comprehensibility** and **accentedness** of second language speech?

Project Deliverables

- Data collection and analysis will be completed in the one-year time frame
- Findings will be presented at a conference and published in a high impact, peer-reviewed journal
- Depending on results, findings will likely lead to
 - Future listener training studies
 - Potential for application to extramural funding



Potential Impact

- Findings can provide implications for designing training modules to reduce accent discrimination
- Showing that transcription reduces foreign accent processing 'costs' calls for increased exposure to diverse types of speech

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