Speech Perception

Teaching period: 12.04.2021 - 23.07.2021

Corpus Christi week: 31.05.2021 – 04.06.2021, no class
Consolidation week: 14.06.2020 - 18.06.2020, no class

Seminar times: Wednesday 10-11.30 a.m.

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This course will examine the human ability to receive and process spoken signals. It will start with introducing the foundations of human audition, the hearing mechanism and its properties in healthy and clinical populations. Ways of measuring perceptual impressions (auditory scales) and multimodality of speech perception will be discussed, along with auditory illusions where there is a discrepancy between a subjective percept and an objective physical reality, and explain how they arise. Students will be introduced to the key issues in speech perception research, including perception of different linguistic units (consonants, vowels, words, prosody) and different accents (regional, social, non-native), and learn about current models of speech perception.

Prerequisites
BA in Linguistics or Psychology, basic knowledge of experimental methods

- Assignments:
  - Presentation of a perception study (25%) – 22.06. and 29.06.2021
    - data collection during the Corpus Christi and Consolidation weeks, ~20-40 listeners to be tested
  - Experimental report (3,000 words, 75%) – 31.07.2021
    - marks due: 30.09.2021

13.04.2021 Introduction – key issues in SP (lecture, readings, exercises)

Recommended reading:

20.04.2021 The Auditory System (lecture, readings, exercises)

Recommended reading:
- Zsiga (2013) The Sounds of Language: An Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology (pp. 173-197)
- Watch this educational video from 1940 which outlines the structure and the function of the human ear (in preparation to the exercises).

27.04.2021 Properties of Audition (lecture, readings, exercises)

Recommended reading:

04.05.2021 Categorical Perception (lecture, readings, exercises)

Recommended reading:

11.05.2021 Multimodality (lecture, readings, exercises)

Recommended reading:

18.05.2021 Top-down and context effects (lecture, readings, exercises)

Recommended reading:

25.05.2021 Development (lecture, readings, exercises)

Recommended reading:

1.06.2021 Corpus Christi week – no class, preparation for a discussion and the upcoming assignment

8.06.2021 Impairment (readings and discussion)

Readings – pick one:
- Narinesingh et al. 2014, Audiovisual Perception in Adults With Amblyopia: A Study Using the McGurk Effect. IOVS.
- Ziegler et al. 2005, Deficits in speech perception predict language learning impairment. PNAS.
15.06.2021 Consolidation week – no class, preparation for the upcoming assignment

22.06.2021 Presentations

29.06.2021 Presentations

6.07.2021 Illusions and Slips of the Ear (lecture, readings, exercises)
Recommended reading:


13.07.2021 Theories of Speech Perception (lecture, readings, exercises)
Recommended reading:


20.07.2021 Wrap-up, concluding discussion, discussion of lab reports