L2 Rhythm Acquisition
van Maastricht, Lieke; Krahmer, Emiel; Swerts, Marc

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Learning L2 Rhythm: Does the Direction of Acquisition Matter?

Lieve van Maastricht1, Emiel Krahmer1, Marc Swerts1 & Pilar Prieto2,3
1 Tilburg center for Cognition and Communication, Tilburg University, The Netherlands
2 ICREA, Institució Catalana de Recerca i Estudis Avançats, Catalunya
3 Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain
l.vanmaastricht@uvt.nl

Research Question

Does the direction of learning affect the acquisition of rhythm, and particularly accentual lengthening by Dutch learners of Spanish (DLS) and Spanish learners of Dutch (SLD)?

Method

Participants
5 participants per language group:
L1 Dutch, SLD with varying proficiency: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2
L1 Spanish, SLD with varying proficiency: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1

Materials
15 sentences with comparable type and number of syllables and prosodic frases for both languages.

Procedure
participants were asked to read the sentences aloud, repeating those that were not fluent.

Prosodic Analysis
- accentual lengthening measure (3 levels)
- rhythm metrics (%V, varcoV, nPVI-V)

Statistical Analysis
Generalized Linear Mixed Effects model
Fixed factors: speaker group, accentual lengthening level
Random factor: speaker, item
Target variable: raw syllable duration

Results Native Speakers

Results %V vs. VarcoV

Results %V vs. nPVI-V

Results DLS vs. SLD

Conclusion & Discussion
Both groups approach native values.

Statistically it is impossible to determine whether DLS or SLD advance more towards their target.

The hypothesis cannot be rejected based on the results.

But…
- effect of all syllable structure types
- analyze other half of the data > more power
- Principal Component Analysis?

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