WORKSHOP SERIES

Paralinguistic information and phonological acquisition in Japanese and some European languages:

Tolerance of foreign accent in multilingual societies

Thursday 27 July 2023

WASEDA
University

Paralinguistic information and phonological acquisition in Japanese and some European languages: Tolerance of foreign accent in multilingual societies.

This workshop focuses on linguistic studies of second language (L2) acquisition and the sociolinguistic importance of foreign accent in Japanese and some European languages. In recent years, the focus of L2 research has shifted from nativelikeness to comprehensibility. Various linguistic factors can affect speech comprehensibility, including pronunciation of segments, prosodic accuracy, grammatical accuracy, correctness of vocabulary, and paralinguistic information such as speech attitude and the confidence of the speaker. Furthermore, it is also influenced by psychological attitudes, impressions and assumptions on the part of the listener towards the speaker. This means that foreign accented speech with imperfect grammar is now theoretically acceptable.

However, some studies have reported negative impressions of foreign accented speech. For example, the authenticity of information in foreign accented speech still tends to be questioned more than for native speech, and the performance of interviewees has been rated lower. Also, other studies have reported that speech comprehension can be affected by speakers' faces, whether they look like typical native English speakers or not. Of course, various kinds of paralinguistic effects occur in all languages, so it is still not clear what kinds of foreign accentedness most strongly influence sociolinguistic impression and linguistic function.

However, there is still a lot of uncertainty about how various linguistic features affect the perception of L2 speech communication in Japanese and European languages. So, in this workshop, the researchers will present results from their studies on these topics and discuss how such studies can contribute to sociolinguistically acceptable L2 acquisition and its effective teaching and learning.

**Paralinguistic information and phonological acquisition
in Japanese and some European languages:**
Tolerance of foreign accent in multilingual societies.
Thursday 27 July 2023

SCHEDULE

10:15 - 10:30	Welcome & Introduction
10:30 - 10:50	Maelle AMAND (Université de Limoges "How word endings affect the perception of word stress : the case of French learners of English"
10:50 - 11:10	Carlos GUSSENHOVEN (Radboud University) "You say paralinguistics, I say linguistics"
11:10 - 11:30	Manuela Caterina MORONI (University of Bergamo) "Cross-linguistic influence in German heritage speakers of Italian"
11:30 - 11:50	Miki IKOMA (Waseda University) "Prosody and paralinguistic information in L1 and L2 utterances containing the German particle schon and the Japanese sentence final particle -yo"
11:50 - 12:10	Coffee Break
12:10 - 12:40	Roundtable 1
12:40 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 14:20	Rubén PÉREZ RAMÓN (Waseda University) "Signal manipulation for foreign accent research"
14:20 - 14:40	Takeki KAMIYAMA (Université Paris 8 Vincennes - Saint-Denis) "Perception and production of French oral vowels by Japanese-speaking learners: does dialectal variation play a role? "
14:40 - 15:00	Tetsuo HARADA (Waseda University) "Speaking and pronunciation skills of children in a Japanese English two-way immersion program in the US"
15:00 - 15:20	Mariko KONDO (Waseda University) "What features are important for effective L2 pronunciation? Phonetic and socio-cultural issues"
15:20 - 15:45	Coffee Break
15:45 - 17:00	Roundtable 2 & Summary

**Paralinguistic information and phonological acquisition
in Japanese and some European languages:**
Tolerance of foreign accent in multilingual societies.
Thursday 27 July 2023

Seminar
Organizer

Mariko KONDO (Waseda University)

Bio   Mariko Kondo is a professor of Phonetics in the School of International Liberal Studies and Graduate School of International Culture and Communication Studies of Waseda University in Tokyo. After finishing her first degree in English at Waseda University, she did Master's degrees in English Language teaching at the Institute of Education and in Phonetics at University College London, London University. Then she completed a Ph.D. in Phonetics at the University of Edinburgh. Subsequently, she taught at Stirling, Edinburgh and Glasgow Universities before moving back to Japan.
She has been working on various fields including general phonetics and phonology, phonological acquisition of second language, and building an L2 English speech corpus. She is currently the director of Waseda University Institute of Language and Speech Science. She has also worked as the chief editor of the Journal of the Phonetic Society of Japan and is currently the chair of the International Exchange Committee of the Society

Title   "What features are important for effective L2 pronunciation? Phonetic and socio-cultural issues"

Abstract   Most learners of a second language (L2) have an accent from their first language (L1). In the past, the main objective of both L2 learners and their language teachers was for the learners to reduce their L1 accent and acquire nativelike accent. However, the focus of L2 phonological acquisition has shifted from nativelikeness to intelligibility and comprehensibility (Munro and Derwing, 1995). Also, for L2 English, the emergence of World Englishes has raised crucial issues about what is nativelike for English communication. For example, many varieties of English either do not distinguish the pairs of sounds which are problems for Japanese speakers, e.g., /l/-/r/, /b/-/v/, the "th" sounds, or the phonetic realizations of these sounds can be quite different. Therefore, we need to rethink L2 pronunciation education.
Socio-cultural issues can affect L2 intelligibility and comprehensibility, for example due to the influence of psychological attitudes, impressions and assumptions on the part of the listener towards the speaker. Some studies have found that non-linguistic features such as speakers' face sometimes resulted in lower intelligibility or comprehensibility of speech (Rubin, 1992), or that certain types of foreign accent received lower evaluations of the speech (Lev-Ari & Keysar, 2010; Timming, 2017).
In this presentation, I would like to discuss some issues regarding acquisition of L2 accents, such as what kind of L2 accent is easier or more comfortable to listen to, what kinds are valued higher or lower, and crucial phonetic features in relation to L2 pronunciation teaching and learning.

**Paralinguistic information and phonological acquisition
in Japanese and some European languages:**
Tolerance of foreign accent in multilingual societies.
Thursday 27 July 2023

Speaker

Maelle AMAND (Université de Limoges)

Bio   Maelle Amand holds a PhD in sociolinguistics (University of Paris Diderot/Newcastle University) with a particular interest in phonological variation and change. She also holds the French title of professeure agrégée in English studies (national rank 46th). She has been a lecturer at Paris Sorbonne Nouvelle in English phonetics/phonology and sociolinguistics for three years and has taught similar subjects during her PhD (three years). Her research interests lie in variation in Tyneside English and in the evolution of sociolinguistic approaches with respect to fieldwork and data analysis. Another aspect of her work involves the development of methods to improve the pronunciation of learners of English via the use of gestures and visual aids like spectrograms.

Title   "How word endings affect the perception of word stress : the case of French learners of English"

Abstract   French-speaking learners of second languages are said to be partially stress deaf (Dupoux et al. 2008). However, little is known about error tendencies in auditory identification of lexical stress in English. 55 advanced learners identified the primary stress of 46 utterance-final words pronounced by an American English speaker with an aggregated 36% of errors rates. Words ranged from 2 to 6 syllables (mode = 4). The study measures the impact of 6 stressimposing endings (plus the addition of -ing for 3 of them) with 3 nuclear tones (fall, rise, fall-rise) on word-stress identification. Results show a significant difference in the error rate between the rising tone and the other tones ($p < 0.006$). Amongst all participants, stress-imposing endings also had a significant impact on error rates ($p < 0.001$) and even more so when combined with the neutral suffix -ing, with stresses being more frequently identified on the syllable preceding -ing with an unreduced vowel, e.g. 'celebrate vs. cele'brating.
Keywords: L2 word-stress perception, nuclear tone,
French learners of English, stress-imposing endings

**Paralinguistic information and phonological acquisition
in Japanese and some European languages:**
Tolerance of foreign accent in multilingual societies.
Thursday 27 July 2023

Speaker

Carlos GUSSENHOVEN (Radboud University)

Bio   Carlos Gussenhoven obtained his PhD from Radboud University in 1984. He is currently Professor Emeritus at Radboud University, where he held a personal chair from 1996 to 2011. He was a visiting scholar at Edinburgh University (1981–82), Stanford University (1985–86), and the University of California, Berkeley (1995, Fulbright), and has held positions at UC Berkeley (1991), Queen Mary University of London (2004–11), and the National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University in Hsinchu. He held guest professorships at the University of Konstanz and Nanjing University. Besides publishing his research on prosodic theory and the prosodic systems of a variety of languages in journals and conference proceedings, he co-authored Understanding Phonology (4th edition, Routledge, 2017) and published The Phonology of Tone and Intonation (Cambridge University Press, 2004), besides editing volumes on language prosody.

Title   "You say paralinguistics, I say linguistics"

Abstract   Paralinguistic communication has been defined as conveying meaning in speech that is not be encoded in terms of morphological and phonological representations (e.g. Lehiste 1970; Gussenhoven 2004; Ladd 2008). In this view, the kind of meaning would not appear to be criterial, implying that affective as well as non-affective meanings could in principle be expressed in either manner. Varieties of Scandinavian and Limburgish, for instance, express the difference between interrogatives and declaratives in the realization of the pitch range of the same intonational tone string, while many other languages use different boundary tones for this. I will report on the extent to which speakers of a Mandarin and a Cantonese variety of Chinese perceive differences between lexical tones and differences between intonations in a gradient as opposed to a categorical manner. Participants did a discrimination task and an identification task on stimuli taken from eight 7-step continua between monosyllables that differed either in the lexical tone or in the intonation. In the Mandarin dialect, the tone contrasts were perceived categorically and the intonation contrasts gradiently, as shown by the results on both tasks. The results for the discrimination task with Cantonese lexical tones suggest a categorical difference, while the identification task suggests the intonational difference is more discrete than the lexical tone contrast. This result can be interpreted to mean that in Cantonese, but not in Mandarin, intonation encoded tonally.

**Paralinguistic information and phonological acquisition
in Japanese and some European languages:**
Tolerance of foreign accent in multilingual societies.
Thursday 27 July 2023

Speaker

Manuela Caterina MORONI (University of
Bergamo)

Bio Manuela Caterina Moroni is professor of German Linguistics at the University
of Bergamo, Italy. Before coming to Bergamo, she was research assistant and
professor of German Linguistics at the University of Trento (Italy). Prior to that she
was a research fellow at the Institut für Deutsche Sprache in Mannheim (Germany)
funded by the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (short "DAAD", 'German
Academic Exchange Service'). She received her PhD in German Linguistics from
the University of Verona with a thesis on the interaction between modal particles in
information structure in spoken German and her "Habilitation" from the University
of Bern (Switzerland) with a thesis (Habilitationsschrift) on intonation and meaning
in German and Italian.
Her main research topics are modality (modal particles and modal verbs) in German
and Italian and intonation in regional varieties of German and Italian.

Title "Cross-linguistic influence in German heritage speakers of Italian"

Abstract This study deals with the use of the focus particle anche ('also') by heritage speakers
of Italian who grew up in Germany und whose dominant language is German. Italian
anche and its German counterpart auch (i) are a phenomenon at the syntax-prag-
matics interface of language and (ii) share the same functions, but their syntactic,
pragmatic, and intonational properties only partially overlap. According to previous
research on bilingualism, the characteristics of anche/auch (i) (syntax-pragmatics
interface) and (ii) (partial overlap) are expected to favour cross-linguistic influence.
In my presentation, I will analyse the use of anche by German heritage speakers
of Italian in a corpus of narrative interviews to find out whether cross-linguistic in-
fluence affects the use of anche and if it does in which way. My analysis shows that
cross-linguistic influence is selective, that is, it affects only some speakers and when
it is present, it does not consist in a pure calque of the structure of the dominant lan-
guage (German). Rather, it implies a simplification of the use of anche at syntactic
and pragmatic level whereas no cross-linguistic influence is observed with regard to
intonation. In the final discussion, I will try to interpret these results in the light of
research on bilingualism and language contact.

**Paralinguistic information and phonological acquisition
in Japanese and some European languages:**
Tolerance of foreign accent in multilingual societies.
Thursday 27 July 2023

Speaker   Miki IKOMA (Waseda University)

Bio   Miki Ikoma is Professor at the Faculty of Political Science and Economics (FPSE) at Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan. She teaches German as a second foreign language, German seminar, and discourse analysis in the spoken media. She completed her doctorate in German phonetics and linguistics at the University of Hamburg. She published the following book based on her dissertation: Prosodische Eigenschaften der deutschen Modalpartikeln (2007). Her research interests include the interaction of prosody and paralinguistic information of utterances with German discourse modal particles and the L2 acquisition of prosody and paralinguistic information. She is a visiting professor at the Freie Universität Berlin from April 2022 to March 2024.

Title   "Prosody and paralinguistic information in L1 and L2 utterances containing the German particle schon and the Japanese sentence final particle -yo"

Abstract   In spoken language, prosody is considered to play an important role in mutual understanding. Depending on the context of the situation, the prosody of utterances containing discourse modal particles (Weydt 1969, Ikoma 2007) in spoken German can be used to convey different attitudes and intended emotions. This is referred to as «paralinguistic information» (Mori et al. 2014), and it is extremely difficult for non-native learners to correctly identify and reproduce the different intentions of such utterances.

However, Japanese language also uses different types of sentence final particles, such as -yo, which have functions similar to those of the German modal particles. So, the question arises as to whether there are common vs. language-dependent prosodic properties in utterances with German and Japanese particles which can express the same speaker attitudes or intentions. Also, clarifying such common vs. language-dependent prosodic properties in utterances with German and Japanese particles expressing paralinguistic information is very important for the field of second language acquisition.

In my talk, I would therefore like to present some important results from my recent studies (Ikoma 2020, Ikoma 2023) on the prosody of L1 and L2 (Japanese learners of German) utterances containing the discourse modal particle schon and the Japanese sentence final particle -yo, both of which can be used in utterances conveying paralinguistic information such as «rebuttal».

Waseda University Brussels Office
早稲田大学 ブリュッセルオフィス

**Paralinguistic information and phonological acquisition
in Japanese and some European languages:**
Tolerance of foreign accent in multilingual societies.
Thursday 27 July 2023

Speaker

Rubén PÉREZ RAMÓN (Waseda University)

Bio   Rubén Pérez Ramón is a Spanish researcher who specializes in foreign accent and speech technologies. He got his degree from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, in Spain, and later studied two master's degrees in speech technologies and forensic phonetics at the CSIC/Universidad Menéndez Pelayo. Afterwards, he enrolled in the doctorate program LAMS: Linguistic Acquisition in Multimodal Settings at the University of the Basque Country, where he obtained his PhD degree. He conducted a two-year postdoctorate research at Waseda University, in Tokyo, where now he teaches Spanish as associate professor. Other than the academic life, he has worked as a speech consultor and specialist for two IT companies.

Title   "Signal manipulation for foreign accent research"

Abstract   Signal manipulation has proven to be a reliable and useful tool in phonetics research. By manipulating specific aspects of a sound, researchers can observe how certain features affect communication when modified in controlled ways. Research in foreign accent (FA) has made use of this technology in several ways, and the way of manipulating sounds itself has evolved to make use of computational advances. Traditionally, manipulation has been used to alter prosodic features such as intonation, rhythm, or speech rate. Features such as these are of great interest since a deviation from the norm can drastically alter the intended meaning of a message. To the best of our knowledge, the segmental domain of FA has not been studied in such detail, probably because segments are comprised of several features (e.g., voicing or manner of articulation) that require separated transformations in order to recreate the deviation that segments experiment naturally in second language speech. In the last years, however, several techniques for segmental manipulation have been presented to the scientific community. Deep Neural Networks or Hidden Markov Models, for example, have been used to create models that replicate accented segments. In this talk, I will present a set of manipulation techniques that enable the user to generate segmental FA in a controlled and robust way. Furthermore, different degrees of segmental FA can be applied over the desired tokens, allowing for the assessment of nativelikeness in a wide range of deviations from the norm.
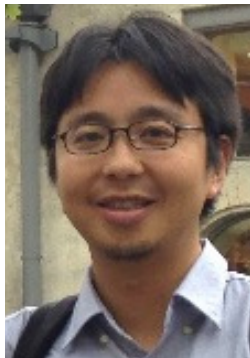
Waseda University Brussels Office
早稲田大学 ブリュッセルオフィス

**Paralinguistic information and phonological acquisition
in Japanese and some European languages:**
Tolerance of foreign accent in multilingual societies.
Thursday 27 July 2023

Speaker

Takeki KAMIYAMA (Université Paris 8
Vincennes - Saint-Denis)

Bio   Takeki Kamiyama is Maître de conférences (Associate Professor) at Université
Paris 8 Vincennes - Saint-Denis. He earned his doctorate degree in phonetics from
Université Sorbonne Nouvelle (Laboratory of Phonetics and Phonology) in 2009. He
has been conducting research on phonetics and phonology of foreign and second
language acquisition. His doctoral dissertation focused on the acquisition of French
oral vowels, in particular the high and high-mid rounded vowels /u y ø/ by Japanese-
speaking learners. Other research topics include the acquisition of segmental and
suprasegmental aspects of French, English and Japanese as a foreign / second / third
language.

Title   "Perception and production of French oral vowels by Japanese-speaking
learners: does dialectal variation play a role? "

Abstract   This talk presents a series of studies on the impact of regional variation in L1 (source
language) on L2 (target language) pronunciation, focusing on the high back vowel
/u/ in French perceived or produced by native speakers of Japanese from the Tokyo
and Osaka areas. 1) The 5 Japanese vowels were pronounced by 11 speakers (5
women and 6 men) from Kansai (Osaka) with no learning experience of French
and their first 4 formants were measured to examine their acoustic properties. 2)
25 naïve listeners from Kansai took part in an AXB auditory discrimination task of
French vowels including pairs /u/-/y/, /y/-/ø/ and /u/-/ø/; the results were compared
with those of Tokyo speakers in previous studies. 3) Some Japanese-speaking lear-
ners of French (JSL) from Kansai produced the French /u/ with a lower F2 (around
1000 Hz for men) than typical values observed for learners from the Tokyo area.
These results show some limited differences for some of the speakers from Kansai
compared to the tendency commonly observed with Tokyo speakers.

Paralinguistic information and phonological acquisition in Japanese and some European languages:
Tolerance of foreign accent in multilingual societies.
Thursday 27 July 2023

Speaker   Tetsuo HARADA (Waseda University)

Bio   Tetsuo Harada is Professor of Applied Linguistics in the Faculty of Education and Integrated Arts and Sciences at Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan, where he teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in second language acquisition, bilingual education, content and language integrated learning as well as advanced phonetics and experimental phonetics. He also served as Assistant Professor of Japanese Linguistics and Japanese Applied Linguistics in the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures at the University of Oregon. He completed his Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). His research interests include L2 speech learning in immersion programs, content-based language teaching (CBLT), and bilingual education. He published several articles and chapters on CBLT in such edited books as The content-based classroom: New perspectives on integrating language and content (2017) and English as a Lingua Franca in Japan: Towards multilingual practices (2020).

Title   "Speaking and pronunciation skills of children in a Japanese English two-way immersion program in the US"

Abstract   Research on second language (L2) pronunciation has been done mainly in naturalistic contexts (Flege, 2021) and language classrooms (Saito & Plonsky, 2019). But with the introduction of content and language integrated learning (CLIL) in Europe and immersion education (IM) in North America, students are now exposed to the target language in content courses. This educational environment, which is closer to the naturalistic setting than the traditional language classroom, provides more authentic opportunities for meaningful input, output, and interactions with teachers and peers. However, a limited number of studies on the learning of L2 pronunciation in CLIL and IM settings were conducted (e.g., Harada, 2006, 2007; Menke, 2015, 2017, 2021; Netelenbos, Li, & Rosen, 2016). To bridge this gap, this talk focuses on two-way immersion (TWI) programs, in which a balanced number of students from each target language group are enrolled in a class and are expected to get exposed to L2 through peer interactions. The study examined their speaking skills, measured by the ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL), and pronunciation skills, measured by acoustic analysis (i.e., voice onset time), for elementary school children in a Japanese/English TWI program in the US. Seventy-one students (27 Japanese-as-a-world-language (JWL) learners and 44 Japanese-as-a-heritage-language (JHL) learners) participated in both an oral interview and a sentence reading task to elicit voiceless stops /p, t, k/ in English and Japanese. Results showed that both JWL and JHL children successfully developed their speaking proficiency and produced target-like Japanese VOT.

Waseda University
Brussels Office

Avenue Antoine Depage, 1 - 1050 Brussels Belgium
https://www.waseda.jp/inst/brussels-office/news-en/
Waseda_univ_Brussels @WasedaBrussels

Contact:
Jean-Louis Moortgat
+32 476 538 320
jean-louis.moortgat@ulb.be