
Enhancing Novel Speech Sounds and Word Learning in Second Language Acquisition

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Abstract

Many second language (L2) learners encounter challenges when acquiring unfamiliar speech sounds, often failing to achieve native-like pronunciation and instead speaking with a distinct foreign accent. Given the potential for communication barriers and misunderstandings associated with speaking an L2 with a foreign accent, it is imperative for L2 learners to actively practice and refine their pronunciation during the learning process. We will present a series of experiments that indicate how L2 word acquisition and pronunciation accuracy can be enhanced through specific approaches. These approaches involve exposing learners to speech samples from multiple speakers and utilizing foreign-directed speech, while minimizing the influence of native language orthography and employing color-coded L2 orthographic representations. These findings have significant implications not only for models of L2 speech production and learning but also for the development of effective educational strategies and teaching methodologies.

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