

Abstract for ZWAL

Producing and Perceiving Socially Structured Variation: Coarticulatory Nasalization in Afrikaans

The two main socioethnic varieties of Afrikaans, so-called "White Afrikaans" and so-called "Coloured Afrikaans", have traditionally been described as differing in terms of the extent of coarticulatory nasalization observed in the production of words like *bont* 'multi coloured' and *bons* 'bounce'. Coloured Afrikaans is usually described as having no or little nasalization, and White Afrikaans as having extensive nasalization. In this talk, I present the results of a production and perception study with speakers of these two varieties of Afrikaans. Using nasal airflow measures, the production study first provides support for the difference between the two varieties of Afrikaans. The perception study, relying on eye tracking technology, then explores the question of whether listeners rely differentially on the acoustic evidence for nasalization when listening to a speaker of Coloured vs. White Afrikaans. That is, do listeners adjust their perceptual strategies based on the identity of the speaker? Results show that listeners do adjust their perceptual strategies, but that this adjustment is done on the basis of the nasalization patterns observed in the speech of the specific speaker, and not on presumed differences between speakers based on their socioethnic identities. That is, the adjustment is done on the level of individual speakers rather than the level of the broader speech community.