Talking, like, a Valley Girl? Online processing of sociolinguistic cues

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D'Onofrio (2018a,b)





Tyler (2015)





Campbell-Kibler (2008, 2009)





Campbell-Kibler (2008, 2009), Labov (2011), Levon (2014)



Campbell-Kibler (2008, 2009), Labov (2011), Levon (2014)

Listeners must integrate the meaning contributions of sociolinguistic cues with the other social impressions that arise when hearing someone talk

How and when do we do this?

Allopenna (1998), Degen & Tanenhaus (2016), McMurray et al. (2008); but see Austen & Campbell-Kibler (2020), D'Onofrio (2018), Weissler (2020)

2 eye-tracking experiments: (ING) and (HRT)

Four speaker voices

Exp. 1 (ING)

example stimuli

-in' l'm talkin' about the beam-ing l'm talking about the beam



example stimuli

HRT I'm talking about the beamDecl. I'm talking about the beam.

Stimuli were manipulated using existing utterances from the Nationwide Speech Project Corpus (Clopper & Pisoni 2006)

2 eye-tracking experiments: (ING) and (HRT)

Four speaker voices

Exp. 1 (ING)

example stimuli

-in' l'm talkin' about the beam-ing l'm talking about the beam



example stimuli

HRT I'm talking about the beamDecl. I'm talking about the beam.

2AFC visual world paradigm "Select the speaker you think you heard"



categorical speaker selections

eye-movements, using WebGazer.js



Valley Girl persona

Tough persona

2 eye-tracking experiments: (ING) and (HRT)

Four speaker voices

| -in' -ing | Exp. 1 (ING) example stimuli I'm talkin' about the beam I'm talking about the beam | HRT Decl | Exp. 2 (HRT) example stimuli I'm talking about the beam. I'm talking about the beam. | | | |
|---|--|-------------|---|--|--|--|
| Predictions | | | | | | |
| -in' More Tough selections More Tough looks after onset (compared to -ing) | | | | | | |

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HRT Fewer Tough selections Fewer Tough looks after onset

(compared to **Decl.**)

Exp. 1 (ING) N = 322



Exp. 2 (HRT) N = 321



Exp. 1 (ING) N = 322



Exp. 2 (HRT) N = 321



Exp. 1 (ING) N = 322

📕 -in' 📃 -ing



Exp. 2 (HRT) N = 321

Time (ms)

Results suggest that listeners processed the cues probabilistically

...but online cue uptake was comparatively late

Social meanings of phonetic cues take longer to process than purely referential meanings

(ING) and (HRT) cues are weak cues to social identity Noise associated with online eyetracking using WebGazer.js

e.g., Allopenna (1998)

(As in Austen & Campbell-Kibler 2020)

Thanks!

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Some images within this presentation were designed using resources from <u>freepix.com</u>

Filler Trials

unambiguous

Participants heard a male or female voice, and selected between a male and female speaker

M – F

Filler Trials

unambiguous

Participants either heard a male voice and saw two males, or a female voice and two females

'sociolinguistically-sensitive' participants

Exp.1 (ING)

🗕 -in' 📃 -ing

'Sensitive': more than 50% in'-Tough selections

'sociolinguistically-sensitive' participants

Exp. 2 (HRT)

HRT Decl.

'Sensitive': more than 50% HRT-Valley Girl selections

Each participant saw...

| 16 critical trials | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|-----------------|--|--|--|
| Exp 1: 8 x -in Exp 2: 8 x HR | ' (2 per voice) T (2 per voice) | Exp 1: 8 x -ing (2 per voice) Exp 2: 8 x Decl. (2 per voice) | | | | |
| 16 filler trials | | | | | | |
| 12 unam | nbiguous | 4 ambiguous | | | | |
| 6 male voice | 6 female voice | 2 male-male | 2 female-female | | | |

Statistical details

Categorical selection data

Mixed effects logistic regression models predicting log-odds of selecting the Tough speaker, given presence of -in' (vs. ing) or HRT (vs. Declarative)

Timecourse data

Mixed effects logistic regression models predicting log-odds of looking at the Tough speaker (vs. Valley Girl) in each 100ms interval after cue onset. We used 200ms either side of cue onset as a baseline to compare looks in subsequent windows.

We included Condition (-in' vs. ing, HRT vs. Declarative), Interval (Baseline vs. individual interval, and their interaction as fixed effects. We report the earliest windows at which this interaction became, and continued to be, significant.

Random effects structure

We included the maximal random effects structure justified by the data. Minimally, this included random intercepts for participant, item and speaker, and random by-speaker and by-participant slopes for condition.