



Universidad de Valladolid



CONFERENCE

Facultad de filosofía y letras
Seminario del departamento de inglés
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Phonetic and phonological transfer in second language acquisition



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In this presentation, I report on two research projects currently underway in our laboratory. Both projects deal with the perceptual processing of obstruent consonants in a second language. The first project concerns the perception of English fricative consonants by learners whose first language is Portuguese or Spanish. We conducted a perceptual discrimination task (using the ABX paradigm) and an identification task (a forced-choice task) with three populations: L1 English (Americans, control group), L1 Spanish L2 English (Mexicans), and L1 Portuguese L2 English (Portuguese). Three consonant contrasts were examined: /s/-/f/ (as control), /s/-/z/, and /s/-/ʃ/. The second project concerns the perception of voicing contrasts in English stop consonants by learners whose first language is Arabic. We conducted a perceptual identification experiment on three synthetic acoustic continua that vary in VOT: /b/-/p/, /d/-/t/, /g/-/k/. Together, these studies support the idea that second language learners use the perceptual strategies of their first language to process speech in their second language.

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