Annotated Bibliography

Jaggers, Z., & Baese-Berk, M. M. (2020). Investigating a bias for cue preservation in loanword adaptation. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, *147*(6), EL511–EL516. https://doi.org/10.1121/10.0001375

This work aimed to test an explanation for the bias to keep cues to original sounds when adapting loanwords to their L1 phonology. The authors hypothesised that this is because speakers do not know the foreign language well enough to know whether cue removal would change word identity and are being cautious.

Six variants of a word were synthesised with varying degrees of epenthetic vowel clarity (on the CəCVC ~ C^{ə}CVC ~ CCVC continuum). Self-reported monolingual English-speaking American Amazon Mechanical Turk (MTurk) workers ("Turkers") were recruited to transcribe the variants in two contexts: One is a story in the Netherlands, the other the US. Post-experiment yes-no questions asked each Turker about their interests outside the US, their opinion on learning a language spoken at a travel destination and their thoughts on pronouncing foreign names accurately. It was predicted that speakers will tend to transcribe the vowel, i.e. keep the cue, if it was perceived as foreign, i.e. in the Dutch context. The authors did not find the predicted effect, but found, based on the survey answers, that participants who are accommodating to foreign people tend to preserve the cues.

There are two notable issues with the study. They only tested for perception (transcription), whereas the full and more realistic account would need to involve production (pronunciation) as well. This is possible with audio recording. Second, it relies on self-report to get monolingual speakers. Regional restrictions could instead be used to filter out potential multilinguals (in Pavlick et al., 2014 below). Still, this work has many strengths. The compensation ($1 for 5 minutes) far exceeded the US minimum wage. The task was simple,

suitable for the online platform while still testing the hypothesis directly. Importantly, in Assessment 2, I plan to explore domain prestige effects on sound preservation of loanwords (as in Lev-Ari et al., 2014 below), and the tried-and-tested transcribe-word-in-context and survey methods here are applicable.

Melguy, Y. V., & Johnson, K. (2021). General adaptation to accented English: Speech intelligibility unaffected by perceived source of non-native accent. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, e *149*(4), 2602–2614. https://doi.org/10.1121/10.0004240

This study's two experiments tested two hypotheses about perceptual adaptation for foreign accents with ambiguous evidence in literature. One hypothesis is *general adaptation*: Speakers relax phoneme boundaries when perceiving non-native speech. The other is *targeted adaptation*: Speakers adapt the sound categories to specific accents associated with ethnicities. General adaptation predicts perceptual improvement as long as the accent is perceived as foreign because sounds can be more easily categorised into relaxed boundaries regardless of the exact boundaries of the speaker. In contrast, targeted adaptation predicts such improvement only when the accent corresponds to the perceived ethnicity.

Monolingual American-English-speaking Turkers were recruited for self-paced 60-sentence transcription tasks. In Experiment 1, they transcribed Mandarin-accented English stimuli with noise, paired with a photo of the supposed speaker. The depicted ethnicity was manipulated (Blank, European, East Asian, South Asian). After the task, they were asked to indicate the speaker's ethnicity and native language. Experiment 2 aimed to replicate and rule out confounds in Experiment 1 by controlling for prior experience with Mandarin-accented English as well as changing the procedure and stimuli to amplify the associations between accents and specific ethnicities. In both experiments, as predicted by general (but not targeted) adaptation, participants who believed the stimuli to be non-native transcribed

more accurately, and there was no significant performance difference between those who thought the stimuli were Chinese-accented and those who thought it was another foreign accent.

This study has two clear weaknesses. First, the experiment was long and self-paced, with no attention check. It is possible that participants did not pay enough continuous attention to the stimuli to trigger targeted adaptation. Second, one could not tell whether participants' answers about ethnicity were based on the photo or the accent. The failure to find targeted adaptation effects may only be because participants did not report what they think they heard but what they saw. The authors recognised this but did not give a solution. I suggest that playing a stimulus without a photo at the end and asking where the speaker *sounds* like they came from, instead of asking participants to guess the *speaker*'s ethnicity. Nevertheless, this work sufficiently showed that visual stimuli can improve foreign accent perception. This is enough for my Assessment 2 idea, which involves ensuring that participants understand accented stimuli (see below).

Lev-Ari, S., & Peperkamp, S. (2014). An experimental study of the role of social factors in language change: The case of loanword adaptations. *Laboratory Phonology*, *5*(3). https://doi.org/10.1515/lp-2014-0013

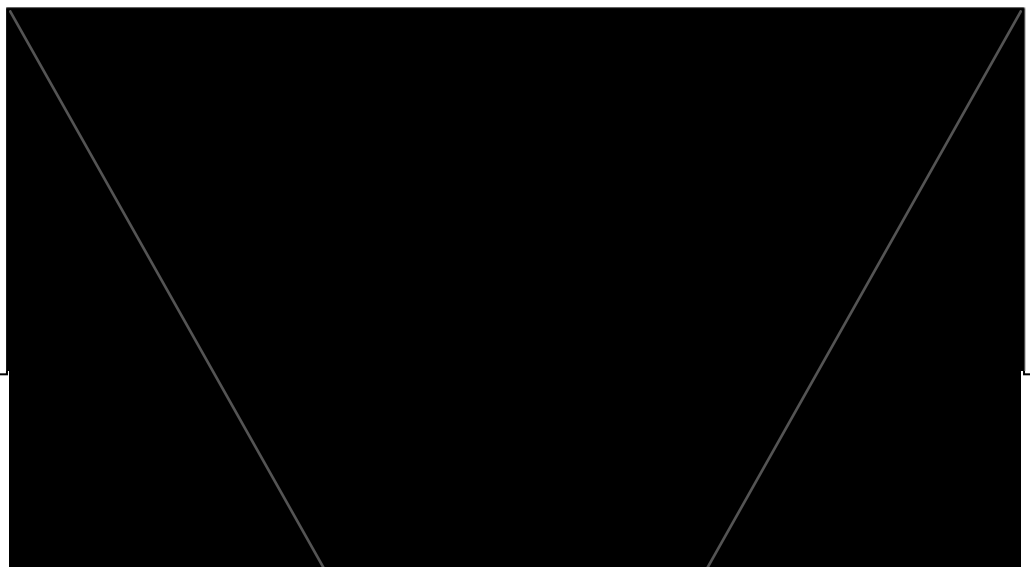
This study experimentally tested the hypothesis that a culture's prestige in some domain encourages preservation of original sounds in loanwords from that culture's language because such preservation allows borrowers to align with the culture or to gain prestige associated with that culture.

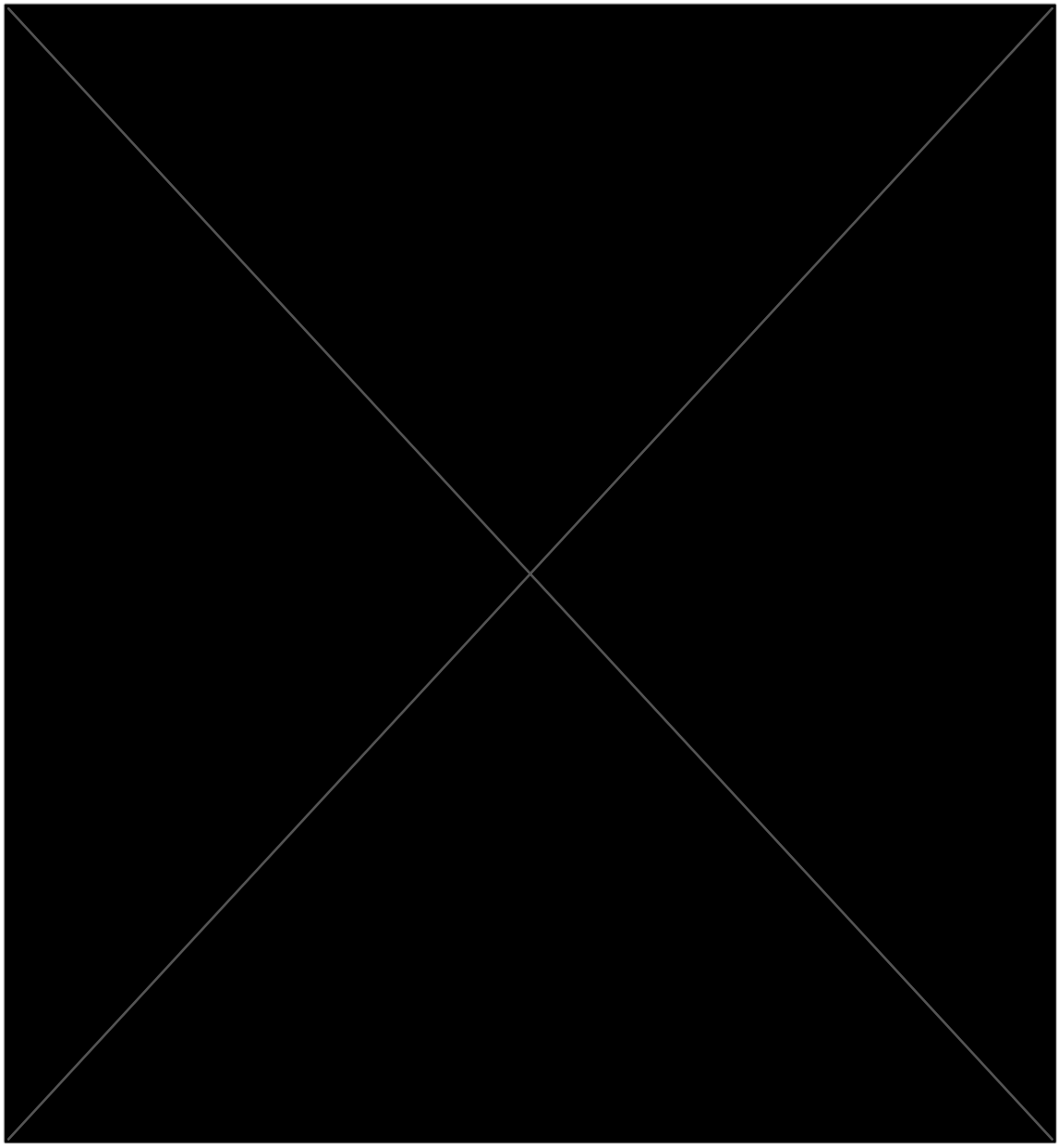
In the experiment, French participants listened to a French recording by a native speaker of French who introduced himself as a fluent French-Italian bilingual and advertised Genna /dʒena/, either a beer or ice cream brand depending on the condition. The participants then

played a 4-player card game where they needed to describe pictures, some of which matched Genna's description, to other players, thereby encouraging the pronunciation of Genna. Participants could either retain the original /dʒ/, which does not exist in French, or adapt it to /g/. A post-game domain prestige survey asked participants to rate Italy, France and other countries for their ice cream and beer. The results showed that participants who thought Italy's ice cream more prestigious than France's retained /dʒ/ more often when Genna was ice cream. Additionally, speakers were found to adapt sounds to the whole group, not specific addressees.

While already sound, the study could be improved. Stronger effects could be produced if it more strongly incentivised participants to align with the donor culture, and if the recording was accented, amplifying product authenticity. One may also wonder if the results generalise cross-culturally. This makes the research question a great fit for online experimentation, where participants are culturally diverse. However, the 4-player multi-round game design is too long and complicated for online experiments. My Assessment 2 plan is to improve the design to encourage more cultural affiliation, adapt Jagger & Baese-Berk's methods to answer a similar question but for more language pairs and use accented stimuli produced by a native speaker Turker of the donor culture, while controlling for understanding difficulty with Melguy & Johnson's methods.

Pavlick, E., Post, M., Irvine, A., Kachaev, D., & Callison-Burch, C. (2014). The language demographics of Amazon Mechanical Turk. *Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, *2*, 79–92. https://doi.org/10.1162/tacl_a_00167





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GRADEMARK REPORT

FINAL GRADE

80/100

GENERAL COMMENTS

Instructor

Entry 1: 5/10
Entry 2: 9/10
Entry 3: 8/10
Entry 4: 8/10

TOTAL: 30/40 = 75%

+5% mark adjustment (applied to all assignments)

PAGE 1

QM

QM

Comment 1

Quite hard to follow this without knowing the paper

Comment 2

Good point

Comment 3

Possibly a good way of filtering native speakers of a language, but not necessarily monolinguals

Comment 4

Slightly generic point

Comment 5

Could have done with more detail on the suitability of the task for testing the hypothesis

PAGE 2

QM

QM

QM

PAGE 3

Comment 6

Good point

QM

Comment 7

Good ideas

QM

PAGE 4

QM

Comment 8

How could this be achieved?

QM

Comment 9

Do you have a reason to think that such a design could not be run online?

Comment 10

Interesting ideas

QM

Comment 11

What was the research question/hypothesis?

PAGE 5

QM

Comment 12

Good point

QM

Comment 13

Interesting ideas