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SPRACHGESELLSCHAFT

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Die Wiener Sprachgesellschaft lädt zu folgendem Vortrag herzlich ein:

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The language-specific interpretation of stop cues – a formal account

Abstract: Stops are produced by moving the active towards the passive articulator, holding it there for a short contact phase, and then releasing it. In intervocalic position, these articulatory phases are reflected as a sequence of perceivable events, or cues: a transition at the end of the preceding vowel into the closure followed by a short phase of silence or voicing, ending with a burst noise and transitions into a following vowel.

In word-final position, voiceless stops across languages are cued by a silence phase and transitions from a preceding vowel or sonorant. Languages differ, however, in which further stop cues they require or allow in this position. While English usually employs a burst in final position, Italian requires this burst, and often reinforces it by a vocalic transition, though this vocalic period is not interpreted as a vowel by Italian listeners. Korean or Hongkong Cantonese, on the other hand, do not allow a burst in final position, and the presence of a final burst is interpreted by native listeners of those languages as the presence of a following vowel.

In this talk, I will illustrate how these language-specific differences in final stop cues and their interpretation can be formalized, and how such a formalization of cue use in the native language makes testable predictions for second-language perception. For this, I will employ the theory of Bidirectional Phonetics & Phonology (Boersma 2007), as it allows for the mapping of auditory cues onto phonological surface forms in perception, and vice versa in production, with cue constraints. I will furthermore show how such native cue mappings can change over time with continuing input from a second language (language attrition).

Zeit: Mittwoch, 02. 06. 2026, 18.00h

Ort: Seminarraum 1, Sensengasse 3a, 1. OG

M. Pöchtrager m.p.

V. Reiter m. p.