

FALAS NO LABFON

Sessões de trabalho do Laboratório
de Fonética & BabyLab (CLUL)

28 de Março, 10.00-11.30
Sala de Vídeo



10.00h-10.45h

Verónica Crespo Sendra (CLUL/FLUL)

Perceiving incredulity: The role of intonation and facial gestures

[see here: http://ww3.fl.ul.pt/LaboratorioFonetica/files/FALAS_LabFon_Crespo.pdf]

Recently, some studies have revealed that facial gestures can play an important role in teasing out the meaning of interrogative sentence types in a particular language (Srinivasan and Massaro, 2003; Borràs-Comes and Prieto, 2011; among others). However, less is known about potential cross-linguistic differences. This paper investigates the interaction between facial gestures and intonation in the distinction between information-seeking and incredulity yes/no questions in two languages (i.e., Catalan and Dutch) which use different prosodic strategies to express the distinction between these two types of interrogatives. While Dutch uses two phonologically distinct intonational contours, Catalan uses the same pitch contour with a distinction in pitch range. Twenty listeners of Catalan and twenty listeners of Dutch performed a perception experiment with audio-only, video-only, and audiovisual stimuli in congruent and incongruent intonation and gestural combinations. The results reveal that there is a contrast between Dutch and Catalan listeners in the perceptual processing of these sentences. While Dutch participants rely more on intonational differences, Catalan participants use the facial expression cues to a greater extent. All in all, the results show that both languages express pragmatic contrasts both at the intonation and facial expression levels, and native speakers are highly sensitive to the relative weight of these cues at the perceptual level.

10.45h-11.30h

Shuang Lu (CLUL/FLUL)

Effects of Production Training and Perception Training on Tone Perception – A Behavioral and ERP Study

[see here: http://ww3.fl.ul.pt/LaboratorioFonetica/files/FALAS_LabFon_Lu.pdf]

The present study recorded both behavioral data and event-related brain potentials (ERPs) to examine the effectiveness of a perception-only training and a perception-plus-production training on the intentional and unintentional perception of lexical tone by native English speakers. In the behavioral tasks, both the perception-only and the perception-plus-production groups improved on the tone discrimination abilities after the training session. Moreover, the participants in both groups generalized the improvements gained through the trained stimuli to the untrained stimuli. In the ERP tasks, the Mismatch Negativity (MMN) was smaller in the post-training task than in the pre-training task. Besides, both groups showed an increased late negativity at the posterior electrodes in the post-training task compared to the pre-training task. The training groups did not differ in tone processing at the intentional or unintentional level after training. These results suggest that the employment of the motor system does not specifically benefit the tone perceptual skills.