Higher-Level Prosodic Structure Constrains Coda Acquisition in EP

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Introduction

It is a well-known fact that prosody is acquired at a very early stage (Lee, Gerken 1998; Morgan & Demuth 1996; Christophe et al. 2003a, 2003b; Pierkamp 2003; Prieto & Bosch-Ballaruca 2006, a.o.). However, to our knowledge the potential relevance of higher-level prosodic structure to syllable development has not attracted the attention of researchers. The goal of this paper is to show the role of prosodic structure in coda development, focusing on the PW, PhP and IP edges and prominence.

Background

• Effect of segment type: CODA: fricative > lateral > flap. (Freitas 1997).
• Effect of position in the syntactic word: CODA: fricative > final flap > final and internal lateral > initial flap. (Correia 2004).
• Prosodic Structure: At the word level and above, not considered.

Method

Linguistic diary database of spontaneous production data of L, 1,05-3:04, 6.426 utterances, 18.496 words.


Total nº of [l, l, l] codas in the target: 5355; Total nº of codas produced, by L: 354.

Most common repair strategies: epenthesis [i] (35,71%, C deletion+[i] (21,34%)

General Results

RS (2;08): emerge at phrase edges and in prominent positions > 65% of RS occur in words which are heads of IPs and/or syllables at the IP-edge (20% are PhP-Head).

Produced Codas (2;08): emerge at phrase edges. The edge effect is not incremental: IP final position is the main prosodic factor that triggers early coda production.