Contribution ID: **30** Type: **Talk**

Morphological effects on pronunciation in German

Thursday, June 22, 2017 2:00 PM (20 minutes)

The morphological complexity of a word is thought to affect the time taken to prepare a verbal response. However, whether it also affects its pronunciation is currently under debate. In the present study, we investigated this issue in German using a reading aloud task. Sixty skilled adult readers read aloud 80 nonwords, comprising 40 morphologically-complex nonwords (e.g., HUNDUNG, where "Hund"is a stem, meaning "dog" , and "ung"is a suffix) and 40 paired non-morphological nonwords (e.g., HUNDAT, where "Hund"is a stem but "at"is not a suffix). The acoustic durations of the stems in the two experimental conditions were measured and statistically compared. Stems of morphologically-complex nonwords were realized acoustically with shorter durations than the same stems of their non-morphological counterpart nonwords. Our results suggest that a word's morphological structure likely influences its pronunciation, thus posing a challenge to traditional theories of speech production, which postulate that phonetic processing does not have access to morphological information.

Primary author: MOUSIKOU, Betty (Reading Education and Development, Max Planck Institute for Human Development)

Co-authors: SCHROEDER, Sascha (Reading Education and Development, Max Planck Institute for Human Development); BÄUMEL, Tanja (Reading Education and Development, Max Planck Institute for Human Development)

Presenter: MOUSIKOU, Betty (Reading Education and Development, Max Planck Institute for Human Development)

Session Classification: Contributed papers 3

Track Classification: Freely Contributed Paper