

**The Acquisition of Phonology and Lexical Access in  
English as a Second Language**

Code: 42300  
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4313157 Advanced English Studies	OT	0	0

## Contact

Name: María José Solé Sabater  
Email: MariaJosep.Sole@uab.cat

## Use of languages

Principal working language: english (eng)

## Prerequisites

Basic knowledge of linguistics is necessary to follow this course; in particular, previous knowledge of general phonetics and phonology and familiarity with with the English sound system will considerably facilitate following this subject.

## Objectives and Contextualisation

Students will be introduced to the main topics and theories in second language acquisition research with an emphasis on the acquisition of phonology and lexical access. Students will become familiar with current research methods and data analysis techniques through an analysis of representative literature and class discussion and assignments.

Objectives:

- To achieve a general understanding of research on second/foreign language acquisition.
- To become familiar with the main theoretical frameworks and methodologies in the acquisition of second language speech.
- To describe the perception and production processes involved in L2 learning.
- To apply knowledge from speech analysis and acoustics to the study of L2 speech
- To apply theoretical notions to the practical study of the acquisition of L2 speech and lexical access.
- To understand the relationship between phonological and lexical acquisition.

## Skills

- Analyse and synthesise information at an advanced level.
- Analyse the relationship between factors, processes or phenomena in the acquisition of English as a second language, its learning and teaching methods, and its literature, history and culture.
- Apply methodological knowledge of statistical analysis and data generation, treatment and codification of multilingual databases, analysis of literary texts, etc. to research.
- Critically argue, issue judgements and present ideas on the basis of the analysis of information originating from scientific production in these areas.
- Develop autonomous learning skills applicable to the research process.
- Distinguish and contrast between the different methodological and theoretical models applied to the academic study of the acquisition, teaching and use of English as a second language in multilingual and multicultural contexts, literary studies and cultural studies.
- Show respect towards the opinions, values, behaviours and/or practices of others.

- Use new technologies for capturing and organising information relevant to lifelong learning and problem-solving in professional activities.
- Use the English language for academic and professional purposes related to research into the acquisition, teaching and use of English as a second language in multilingual and multicultural contexts, literary studies and cultural studies.
- Work effectively in teams in multilingual, multicultural and interdisciplinary professional and/or academic environments.

## Learning outcomes

1. Analyse and synthesise information at an advanced level.
2. Analyse the relationship between factors, processes or phenomena in the acquisition of English as a second language, its learning and teaching methods, and its literature, history and culture.
3. Critically read academic articles on the acquisition of phonology and lexical access in second languages.
4. Design experiments in accordance with the methodologies used in the field of the acquisition of phonology and lexical access in second languages.
5. Develop autonomous learning skills applicable to the research process.
6. Distinguish the basic concepts used in the field of the acquisition of phonology and the lexical access in second languages
7. Identify the different theoretical models in the field of the acquisition of phonology and lexical access in second language
8. Produce critical reviews of academic articles on the acquisition of phonology and lexical access in second languages.
9. Show respect towards the opinions, values, behaviours and/or practices of others.
10. Use new technologies for capturing and organising information relevant to lifelong learning and problem-solving in professional activities.
11. Work effectively in teams in multilingual, multicultural and interdisciplinary professional and/or academic environments.
12. Write high level academic texts on the acquisition of phonology and lexical access in second languages.

## Content

1. Introduction to the study of speech. Research methods in L2 speech.
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2. Main issues in L2 speech. Theories and models in L2 speech acquisition.
3. The speech learning model (SLM). The Perceptual Assimilation Model (PAM). The Native Language Magnet model (NLMM). Feature Models.
4. Introduction to speech analysis. Categorization in phonology.
5. Factors affecting the degree of foreign accent. Age and confounds with age in the acquisition of phonology.
6. Intelligibility, comprehensibility and foreign accent.
7. Speech perception in L2 learning.
8. Speech production in L2. Relation between perception and production.
9. The acquisition of suprasegmental structure.
10. Phonetic training and L2 speech acquisition.
11. L2 speech and lexical access. Priming studies.

## Methodology

Lectures and illustrations, discussion of readings, in-class exercises, labs, discussion of assignments, student presentations, data collection and analysis.

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
<b>Type: Directed</b>			
Lectures	15	0.6	2, 3, 10
Practical sessions	15	0.6	1, 2, 9, 5, 4, 3, 11, 10
<b>Type: Supervised</b>			
Assignments	45	1.8	5, 4, 6, 8, 12, 3, 11, 10
Readings and discussion	25	1	1, 5, 8, 12, 3
<b>Type: Autonomous</b>			
Homework and study	25	1	2, 5, 6, 8, 3

## Evaluation

Continuous assessment based on class participation, assignments, and final paper (oral presentation and written paper).

Class participation - 10%

Assignments - 40%

Final paper or exam - 50%

- Students are required to complete all the assignments and final paper to pass the course.
- Students who miss one assignment will be able to do a make-up assignment.
- Students will be able to rewrite their final paper if it does not obtain a passing mark (5/10).
- Final paper revision will be announced on CV.

## Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Assignments	40%	12.5	0.5	2, 5, 6, 8, 7, 3, 11
Term paper or exam	50%	12.5	0.5	1, 2, 9, 5, 4, 6, 12, 3, 10
class participation	10%	0	0	5, 6, 8, 3, 11

## Bibliography

## References

### -Background readings in (English) phonetics and phonology

Ladefoged, Peter. 1993. *A Course in Phonetics*. Boston, MA: Thomson Wadsworth. -Chapter 8. Acoustic phonetics.

Spencer, Andrew. (1996). *Phonology*. Oxford: Blackwell. -Chapter 1. Preliminaries to Phonology

### -Readings

Bent, Tessa & Ann R. Bradlow. 2003. The interlanguage speech intelligibility benefit. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 114 (3), 1600-1610.

Best, Catherine T., McRoberts, Gerald W., and Goodell, Elizabeth. 2001. Discrimination of non-native consonant contrasts varying in perceptual assimilation to the listener's native phonological system. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 109(2): 775-794.

Bradlow, Ann R. & David B. Pisoni. 1999. Recognition of spoken words by native and non-native listeners: Talker-, listener-, and item-related factors. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 106 (4), 2074-2085.

Flege, James E. 1987. The production of new and similar phones in a foreign language: Evidence for the effect of equivalence classification. *Journal of Phonetics*, 15, 47-65.

Flege, James E. 2002. Interactions between the native and the second language phonetic systems. In P. Burmeister, T. Piske and A. Rohde (Eds.). *An Integrated View of Language Development: Papers in Honor of Henning Wode*. Trier: Wissenschaftlicher Verlag, pp. 217-243.

Leather, Jonathan. 1999. Second language speech research: an introduction. In J. Leather (ed.), *Phonological Issues in Language Learning*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, pp. 1-58.

Logan, John. S. & John S. Pruitt. 1995. Methodological issues in training listeners to perceive non-native sounds. In W. Strange (Ed.). *Speech perception and Linguistic Experience: Theoretical and Methodological Issues*. Timonium, MD: York Press, pp. 351-378.

Marian, Viorica, Spivey, Michael. 2003. Competing activation in bilingual language processing. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition* 6, 97-115.

Munro, Murray. J. & Ocke-Schwen Bohn. 2007. The study of second language speech. In Bohn, O-S. & M. J. Munro (eds.). *Language Experience in Second Language Speech Learning*. In honor of James Emil Flege. Amsterdam / Philadelphia: John Benjamins, pp.3-11.

Munro, Murray J. & Tracey Derwing. 1999. Foreign accent, comprehensibility, and intelligibility in the speech of second language learners. *Language Learning* 45:1, pp. 73-97.

Munro, Murray J. & Tracey Derwing. 2015. A prospectus for pronunciation research in the 21st century. A point of view. *Journal of Second Language Pronunciation* 1:1, 11-42.

Piske, T., I.R.A. MacKay & J.E. Flege. 2001. Factors affecting degree of foreign accent in an L2: a review. *Journal of Phonetics*, 29, 191-215. (Also an overview of factors affecting L2 learning).

Saito, Kazuya, Pavel Trofimovich, Talia Isaacs, Stuart & Webb. 2016. Re-examining Phonological and Lexical Correlates of Second Language Comprehensibility: The Role of Rater Experience. In T. Isaacs, & P. Trofimovich (Eds.), *Second Language Pronunciation Assessment: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*. Bristol: Multilingual Matters, pp. 141-156.

Trofimovich, Pavel, & Paul John, 2011. When three equals tree: Examining the nature of phonological entries in L2 lexicons of Quebec speakers of English. In P. Trofimovich & K. McDonough (Eds.), *Applying priming methods to L2 learning, teaching and research: Insights from psycholinguistics*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, pp. 105-129.

Weber, Andrea, & Cutler, Anne. 2004. Lexical competition in non-native spoken-word recognition. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 50(1), 1-25.

See also: [http://liceu.uab.es/~joaquim/applied\\_linguistics/L2\\_phonetics/Fonetica\\_L2\\_Bib.html](http://liceu.uab.es/~joaquim/applied_linguistics/L2_phonetics/Fonetica_L2_Bib.html)