

When speaking, people constantly adjust their accent, speech rate, vocabulary, syntax and, most importantly, phonology, to the ones of their interlocutors. This constant accommodation to each other's linguistic behaviour, frequently referred to as convergence, is driven mainly by interactional motivations. By sounding like one's interlocutor, people are likely to receive the other human's attention and understanding, as well as to be socially better received.

Meanwhile, the languages one speaks may influence one another in two main ways: it is either the native pronunciation that is being preserved in a foreign speech, or a foreign accent modulating the native one. Mutual influence of the languages used by a speaker is clearly visible in late bilinguals, and this cross-linguistic impact was proved to embrace not only the native (L1) and the first-acquired foreign (L2) language, but also one's third language (L3).

Interpreters are usually late bilinguals, operating in at least two (L1 and L2, or L1 and L3) or three (L1, L2, L3) language realms. They differ from other multilinguals mainly in terms of the simultaneity of their language use. Language switching is particularly fast and frequent in interpreting, especially in the simultaneous mode, where both the source and the target language are active throughout the whole process of interpretation. The cross-linguistic influence is inhibited by the interpreter when he or she decodes or encodes the meaning in a given language, nevertheless, this inhibition may be hampered by the excessive cognitive load an interpreter needs to deal with.

We aim at verifying the following hypotheses:

1. English phonetic qualities present in the source text speech will be transposed into the target text speech produced by an interpreter.
2. The processes described in point 1 will be more visible when the source text speech is faster.

We hypothesize that the interpreters' pronunciation in L1 will be altered by L2 in which the speaker presents the source text. Interpreters, in our opinion, would fail to succeed due to their excessive cognitive effort related to the simultaneity and multitude of actions in interpretation. Thus, interpreters would fail to inhibit the influence of the source language phonetics on their target text production, especially in the fast speech condition, which would corroborate our hypotheses. The study will add to the experiments not only on the L1-L2 phonological impact, but also interpreting and multitasking.

While studying L2 influence on L1 is not a novel idea, and neither is studying cognitive processing and production in interpreting, to the best of our knowledge, no one has yet tested the phonological influence of L1 on L2 in simultaneous interpreting. We believe that this influence should be tested due to the complexity of interpretation, and social expectations towards the interpreters who are required not to be affected by phonological transfer. We would like to verify if this phonological transfer is detected by native Poles, and whether it is indeed perceived as unprofessional.