Feeling Righteous? Stress shift in English L2 Learners

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INTRODUCTION

• Miss matched stress placement in L2 production affect comprehensibility more than acoustic realization of stress. (Field 2005, Warren B. Crabbe 2009, Vicarelli et al., 2009)

• Morphologically conditioned stress alternations:
  1. Stress-bearing suffix: Romance origin:
     million ➞ millionaire
  2. Neutral: does not affect stem stress: mostly German origins:
     happy ➞ happiness
  3. Non-neutral suffixes shift stem stress (Celce-Murcia et al., 1996)
     human ➞ humanity (progressive)
     prefer ➞ preference (regressive)

GOALS

Investigate the effect of foot structure and suffix type on productivity of stress shifting in English L2 learners.

METHODOLOGY

1. Stimuli (6x6 = 36 words)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trochaic stem</th>
<th>Neutral suffixed</th>
<th>Non-neutral suffixed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dictate (394)</td>
<td>dictating (120)</td>
<td>dictation (25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>music (1943)</td>
<td>musical (2454)</td>
<td>musician (1194)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beauty (2584)</td>
<td>beauties (78)</td>
<td>beautician (21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>human (16270)</td>
<td>humanist (23)</td>
<td>humanity (972)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>normal (7221)</td>
<td>normally (3247)</td>
<td>normality (56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>noble (638)</td>
<td>nobly (12)</td>
<td>nobility (66)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Iambic stem</th>
<th>Neutral suffixed</th>
<th>Non-neutral suffixed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>compete (1900)</td>
<td>competing (1219)</td>
<td>competence (275)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prefer (1707)</td>
<td>preferring (55)</td>
<td>preference (493)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>defer (235)</td>
<td>deferring (39)</td>
<td>deference (145)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>precede (47)</td>
<td>preceding (118)</td>
<td>precedent (822)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prevail (668)</td>
<td>prevailing (199)</td>
<td>prevalent (297)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reside (99)</td>
<td>residing (38)</td>
<td>resident (10)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Frequency data from COCA — The Corpus of Contemporary American English

2. Participants: 25 college students (10 male, 15 female)
3. Procedure: read stimulus presented on screen aloud
4. Rating: trained phonetician transcribed the pronunciation
5. Statistical analysis
   a. Independent variables
      FOOT (Trochaic and iambic); TYPE (Stem, Neutral, and Non-neutral)
   b. Dependent variable: Accuracy rate
   c. 2x3 repeated measure ANOVA

RESULTS

1. Asymmetry of progressive and regressive shift confirmed
   - Most frequent NN suffixes (-tion, -ic, -ity) require pre-suffixial stress (most frequent)
   - Typological preference on penultimate stress
   - Faithfulness to the input? a follow-up perception study

2. Supremacy of penultimate stress? or pre-suffixial stress?

3. Issue of word frequency
   - Suffixed word frequency, suffix frequency and stem frequency
   - Alpha phenomenon

4. Pedagogical implications
   - Categorization of suffixes and their frequency
   - Emphasis on the prevalence of pre-suffixial stress pattern
   - Feeling righteous? Think twice!

5. Join our Hackpad page on Feeling Righteous!
   http://goo.gl/10jaGX

DISCUSSION

Care to try? astronomy to astronomical

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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REFERENCES


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