# Perception of Time Compressed Speech in Bilinguals

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The present investigation reports on the performance of thirty young adults (native and non-native speakers of Hindi with a high level of proficiency in English) on the time compressed version of English and Hindi sentences. The study aimed at

- Analysing the influence of time compression (40, 50, and 60 percent compressin rates) on sentential stimuli in English and Hindi.
- Establishing, if any, the differences between the perception of time compressed speech stimuli in English and Hindi by Speakers proficient in both the languages.
- Evaluating the effects of levels of proficiency in a language on the perception of time compressed stimuli.

The results support earlier findings that the performance decreases with increased rates of time compression. Further, performances at 40 and 60 percent time compression rate in English and 40 and 60 percent and 50 and 60 percent time compression in Hindi were found to be significantly different (0.01 level of significance).

Equally proficient speakers of Hindi and English were found to perform poorer in Hindi than in English. This variation in this performance on the two languages was found at all the levels of time compression. This supports the hypothesis that the redundancy and rate of speech, play a role in the perception of time compressed speech stimuli. Hindi being a less redundant language with its increased rate of speech could be contributing to the decreased performance of these subjects in Hindi. Though differences were observed between the two languages they were not significant. Hence definite conclusions are unwarranted and require further investigations.

The study also demonstrates the efficiency on performance of time compressed speech as a function of proficiency in that languge.