

Perception of Time-compressed CNC Monosyllables by Non-native Speakers of English *

SUNIL KUMAR SOOD

This study reports on the performance of forty young adults on Time-compressed version of four lists of form B of Northwestern University Auditory Test number 6 recorded in foreign accent. The study aimed at :

(1) Analyzing the influence of foreign accent on performance of listeners who have not been exposed significantly to it and (2) establishing a pattern of performance of subjects to see if the test can be used in Indian set-up. Time compression levels of 0 and 60% were used at five sensation levels (8, 16, 24, 32 and 40 dB).

The results follow the earlier trend in that the performance decreased at higher time compression and increased with increasing sensation level. However, this relationship was not found to be statistically significant. The Time-compression \times sensation level interaction was not observed in the results that is, the performance

decrement caused by increasing the sensation level.

The results are complicated by the interactive effects of Time-compression and foreign accent and any conclusions are unwarranted.

While the study demonstrates the influence of foreign accent, presumably and Time-compression, it stresses the fact that measures of Time-compression should be used with caution while testing non-native speakers and that the interference by certain factors renders ambiguous results.

Suggestion for Further Research

The study could be extended over a larger sample of population to establish norms using time compressed material of native language. And the studies of clinical population may also be done. Further studies on the influence of foreign accent on Time-compressed speech discrimination ability may be useful, especially in multilingual country like India.

* Master's Dissertation, University of Mysore, 1981.