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Evaluative Reactions to Nonnative Spanish

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Methods: Materials

Audio-recordings:
- 90-second reading of a text with 15 antonym pairs of adjectives
- 15 second (reading 'La liebre y la tortuga')
- In the following order:
  1. Polish (mid)
  2. Brazilian Portuguese (close)
  3. Chinese (far)
  4. Serbian (mid)
  5. French (close)
  6. Korean (far)

Rating form:
- 7-point Likert-scale
- 15 antonym pairs of adjectives

Present Study
We investigate native Spanish listeners' evaluative reactions to second-language Spanish spoken by listeners who ‘consistently rate those speakers with whom they identify the highest,’ (p. 110)

Future Considerations
Raters may be less likely to judge near the beginning of the task and more likely to judge at the end:
1. Would you be friends with this person? Why or why not?
2. Is this person easy to understand?

References
Wilson, J. & Bayard, D. (1997). Social and interpersonal judgments by listeners who 'consistently rate those speakers with whom they identify the highest,’ (p. 110)

Results
1964 of 4500 reported scores were neutral (43.6%).

Table 1. Percentage of non-neutral ratings in evaluative categories by Talker language distance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Talker Language Distance</th>
<th>Competence</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Personality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Close</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Far</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Is there a relationship between the Talkers’ language distance group (close, mid, far) and Raters’ scores of 13 of the 15 evaluative categories?

Yes ➔ We find a statistically significant relationship between the Talkers’ language distance group (close, mid, far) and Raters’ scores of 13 of the 15 evaluative categories.

In addition mid and far groups are scored within 6% of one another in 7 of the 13 significant categories demonstrating a distinction between close and not close.

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Method: Participants

Participants - Talkers:
- 15 learners of Spanish, each with different L1s
  - ages 18-22
  - enrolled in an intermediate-level Spanish course
  - Brazilian Portuguese & French
  - Polish & Serbian
  - Korean & Chinese

Participants - Raters:
- 50 native listeners
- Spanish was their primary language from ages 0-5
  - ages 18-22
  - enrolled in Spanish courses for heritage speakers