I. INTRODUCTION

THEORIES OF BILINGUAL PHONOLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

Traditional views of bilingual phonological organization posit all or nothing based on language currently in use (language mode) or language dominance.

More recent theories posit that languages are controlled by a schema of activation and suppression, where the language not in use is never totally deactivated.

This can be important for code-switching, since this may be a time when both languages are fully activated as speakers switch from one language to the other.

QUESTIONS FOR CURRENT STUDY

1. Can listeners infer when a code-switch is about to occur using phonetic information?
2. Does this vary by the language direction of the switch?

II. METHODS

MATERIALS

English Instructions: English stimuli slide 1 – p > 0.05

English Instructions: English stimuli slide 1 – p > 0.001

English Instructions: English stimuli slide 1 – p = 0.01

Spanish Instructions: Spanish stimuli 1 – p > 0.0001

Spanish stimuli 1 – p > 0.05

Spanish stimuli 1 – p = 0.08

III. RESULTS

Percent Correct by Slides and Language of Instruction

RESULTS OF BINOMIAL TESTS

English Instructions: English stimuli slide 1 – p > 0.05

Spanish Instructions: Spanish stimuli slide 1 – p > 0.001

 Spanish stimuli slide 1 – p > 0.05

IV. CONCLUSION

1. Can listeners infer when a code-switch is about to occur using phonetic information?

   YES

   Listeners perform above chance when sorting code-switch and monolingual utterances.

2. Does this vary by the language direction of the switch?

   YES

   Listeners are better at predicting switches from English to Spanish (dominant language to non-dominant language) than Spanish to English.

   This is somewhat mitigated if instructions are given in Spanish (non-dominant language).

V. REFERENCES


For advice and comments thank you to the members of the Phonetics Lab, the members of the Phon Company, Marc Garellek, Annalisa Arvaniti, and E. Ransom Kramer. For help running the experiment thank you to Criccely Grijalva, Mireya Pinelli-Cruz, and Zully Herrarte. For funding thank you to the CRL Pre-doctoral Training Grant T32DC00004120.