I. INTRODUCTION

CODE-SWITCHING AND SWITCHING STUDIES

American English

Mexican Spanish

H+

prenuclear

nuclear

L+

prenuclear

nuclear

H*

prenuclear

nuclear

CURRENT STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Do Spanish-English bilinguals have trouble identifying words in code-switching sentences because code-switching induces high processing demands?

2. Are there systematic prosodic differences between English, Spanish, and code-switching (both English to Spanish and Spanish to English) sentences?

II. METHODS

SPEAKER

1 early Spanish-English bilingual

(San Diego, CA, USA)

LISTENERS

8 early Spanish-English bilinguals

(San Diego, CA, USA)

MATERIALS

128 sentences

32 English

The clown had a funny face.

32 Spanish

La casa tiene nueve cuartos.

32 CS-ES

The mailman cerró la puerta.

32 CS-SE

El niño hizo una maniobra.

PROCEDURE – PERCEPTION

Participants listen to sentences mixed with noise at 4 SNRs (-6, -3, +0, +3). Write down words in sentences. Score correct number of keywords.

METHOD OF ANALYSIS – PRODUCTION

III. RESULTS – PERC.

CONTEX

Listeners identified words significantly better as the SNR increased.

IV. RESULTS – PROD.

• English significantly higher than Spanish throughout the utterance, as Spanish uses more L* and L+>H* categories.

• Code-switching categories are intermediate to English and Spanish categories throughout the utterance.

V. CONCLUSION

1. Do Spanish-English bilinguals have trouble identifying words in code-switching sentences because code-switching induces high processing demands?

NO

Listeners are able to easily process code-switches, even in a detrimental environment such as high noise.

2. Are there systematic prosodic differences between English, Spanish, and code-switching (both English to Spanish and Spanish to English) sentences?

YES

The speaker’s F0 contours differed in the four contexts. She used intonational patterns from both languages throughout her code-switching sentences.

VI. REFERENCES