

EXPLORING HUMAN PRODUCTION AND COMPREHENSION OF SPONTANEOUS SPEECH

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The main objective of this project is to investigate where reduction happens and how reduction affects language comprehension. In day-to-day conversations, speech is highly variable, which is a big problem in speech recognition for both computers and humans. One aspect of this variation is that words are often produced shortened and run together. For example, the phrase “Did you eat?” is often shortened to something resembling “jeet?” (audio examples available at <goo.gl/EuSqOk>). Even with this extreme variation in normal speech, speakers and listeners are able to communicate. This research project builds on our previous experience in this area by using an interdisciplinary approach which draws from engineering, computer science, statistics, phonetic and psycholinguistic methods, such as: listening for a specific sound, decision tasks, and word identification together with eye-movement tracking to better characterize the phonetic effects of reduction on language comprehension.

FACULTY-DEPARTMENT

Arts-Linguistics

DESIRED FIELD OF (STUDENT) STUDY

Linguistics, Computer Science

INTERNSHIP LOCATION

North Campus

NUMBER OF INTERNSHIP POSITIONS

1

INTERNSHIP START DATE

July 4

Contact: Brendan Cavanagh, Internship Coordinator (Inbound)
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INTERNSHIP END DATE

Three months later (October 4)

ARE THE DATES FLEXIBLE?

Yes, I am flexible regarding the internship dates. Selected students can contact me to request a date change.