

DES 157 Final project Highlights
Danielle Macedo
March 20th, 2017

Background research

Bilingualism: Language and Cognition: page 1 of 15 © Cambridge University Press 2016 doi:10.1017/S1366728916000730

Effects of early home language environment on perception and production of speech*

LILY TAO

Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, East China Normal University School of Psychology, UNSW Australia

MARCUS TAFT

School of Psychology, UNSW Australia

(Received: July 31, 2015; final revision received: June 3, 2016; accepted: June 3, 2016)

The effects of exposure to non-English heritage languages versus exposure to foreign-accented English during early childhood on language performances later in life were investigated. Three groups of young adult participants who differed in their early home language environment were examined on a series of linguistic tasks. Results showed that people who were mostly exposed to accented English in the early home environment are more native-like in various aspects of English language performance than those who were mostly exposed to their non-English heritage language, including vocabulary, pronunciation, and processing of certain types of speech stimuli. Early and extended exposure to accented speech, however, does not appear to enhance the ability to perceive foreign accents in general, and may in fact produce a disadvantage when listening to unfamiliar accents. These findings provide some initial insight into the consequences of migrant parents choosing to speak one language over the other with their children.

Keywords: speech perception, accent perception, accent in speech, heritage language, bilingualism

When adults migrate to a new country where another language is dominant, their children are likely to be educated in that language and use it as their primary means of communication. What are the consequences of such migrant parents speaking to their children mostly in their home language (also referred to as their heritage language: HL), versus speaking to their children mostly in the new language (also referred to as the majority language: ML)?

have lower accuracy in pronunciation (e.g., Flege, Munro & MacKay, 1995; see Hyltenstam & Abrahamsson, 2000; Piske, MacKay & Flege, 2001, for reviews), and smaller vocabulary size in both their languages compared to monolingual speakers of either language (e.g., Bialystok, Luk, Peets & Yang, 2010; Portocarrero, Burright & Donovan, 2007; see Bialystok et al., 2009, for a review). Further, there may be negative transfer effects from HL to

Audience research

What would you like to improve in your English? (15 responses)

Pronunciation

Vocabulary, grammar

speaking

Wordiness and vocabulary

Pronunciation + vocabulary

Not thinking too much when speaking

Pronunciation

Speaking fluently without stopping to think of words

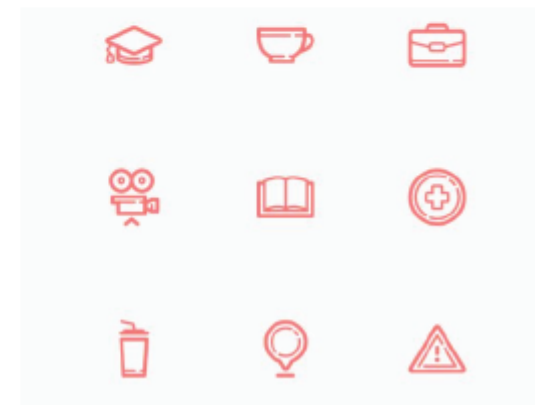
grammar, having a variety of vocabulary to use

Sentence construction, spelling, and vocabulary

my pronunciation

Vocabs and grammar

Visual Research/Style Tile



Visual Research/Style Tile



READ



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/ba/



SPEAK



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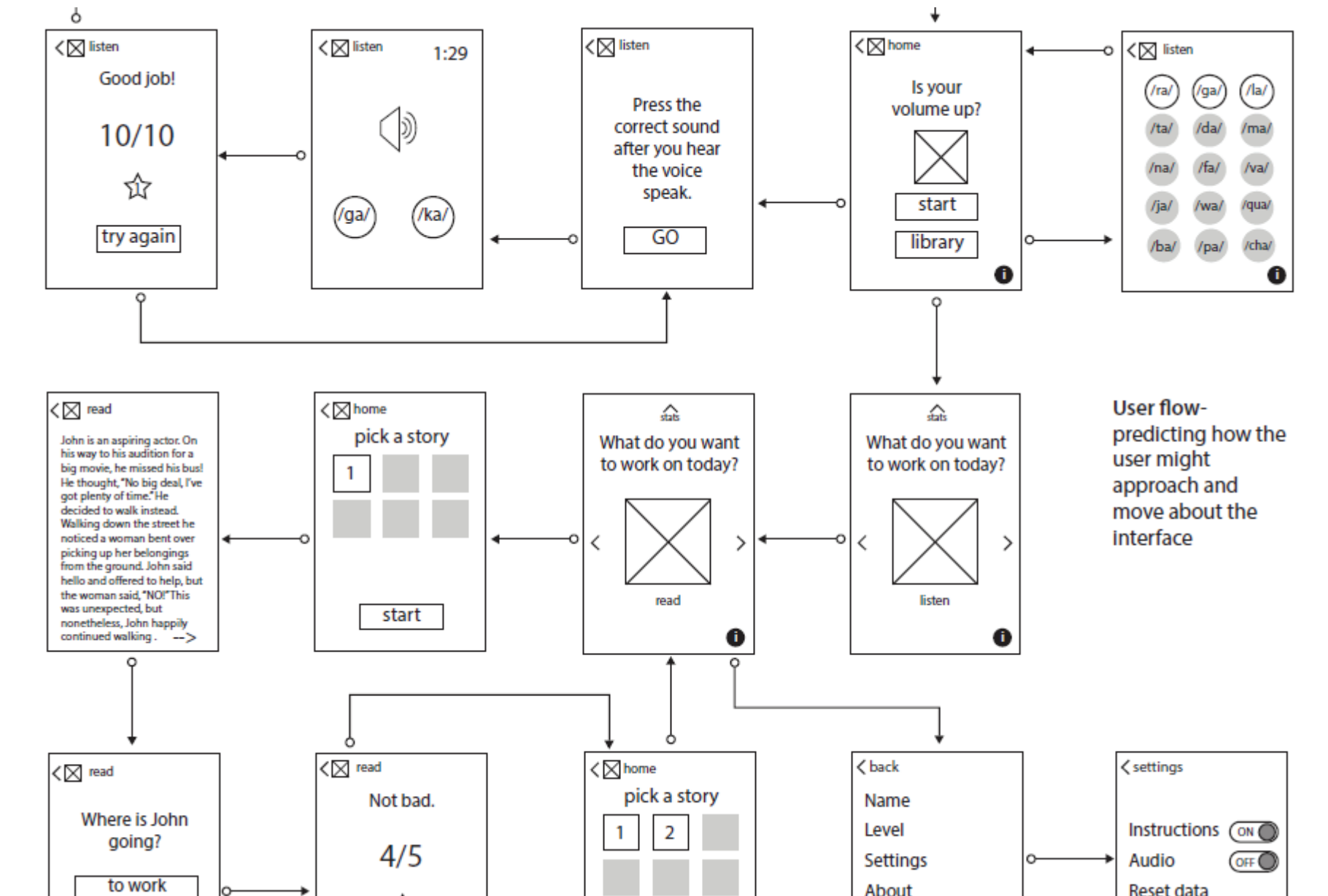
LISTEN



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Wireframe/User Flow




Audience Test




Hello, , what would you like to work on today?




· READ ·



· SPEAK ·

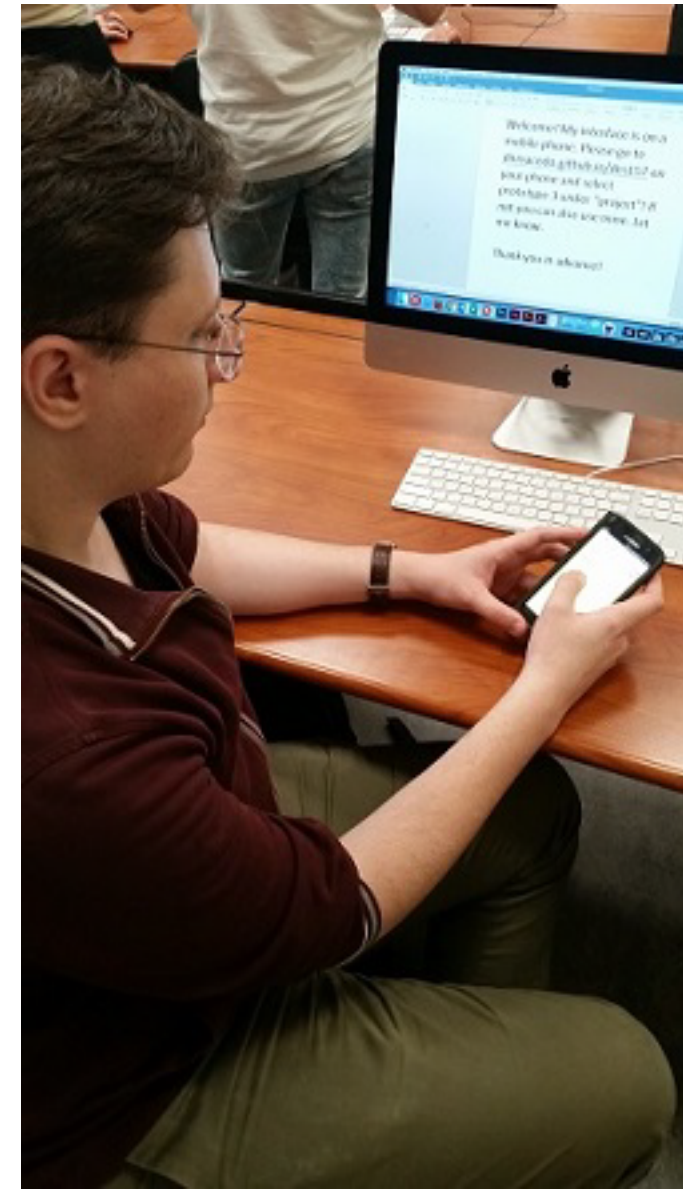



· LISTEN ·



· WRITE ·

Valid HTML5 Valid CSS



Conclusion

- 1. My project has potential**
- 2. Definitely want to build it more**
- 3. Very thankful of all the support**

Moment of truth:

[https://dnmacedo.github.io/des157/project/final/
index.html](https://dnmacedo.github.io/des157/project/final/index.html)