Outline

Introduction

- Sequential bilinguals never reach their L1 proficiency in L2
- L2 processing is more costly
- Phonological mismatches are a source of this difficulty
- Some sounds in non-native speech do not clearly correspond to phonemes in the native repertoire
- Nonetheless, word recognition is possible even when listening to an unfamiliar language, provided sufficient phonological overlap
- The informativeness of phonological overlap during translation has been largely underexplored
- Most studies have either focused on orthographic similarity (constrained by orthographic system) or highly proficient bilinguals (who relie less on lexical properties during translation)
- Translation elicitation task: we ask adult listeners to translate words from an unfamiliar language to their native language
- This ensures that phonological similarity is the only information they can relie on to translate words
- If phonological similarity by itself plays a central role in non-native speech perception, participants should benefit from phonological similarity

Methods

- Participants
- Stimuli
  - Lexical frequency
  - Phonological neighbourhood density (PTHN)
  - Phonological similarity (Levenshtein distance)
- Procedure
- Data analysis
  - Dependent variable (response codings)
  - Predictors

Results

- Model comparison
- Population-level effects - Group comparisons
- Group-level effects

Discussion