**Practice makes perfect.**

**L2 morphosyntactic anticipation in simultaneous interpreters.**

Adults have persistent difficulty processing L2 inflectional morphology (Hopp, 2010).

Representational and computational accounts have proliferated over the last 20 years, but have concentrated on suffixes. Authors (2016) proposed additional explanations in terms of late learners’ impoverished abilities to use acoustic cues to anticipate suffixes. To further evaluate language experience effects on L2 morphosyntactic anticipation, we compared 25 Spanish monolinguals with 28 non-interpreter and 26 professional interpreter English advanced learners of Spanish. Simultaneous interpreting requires anticipation of semantic, syntactic, and phonological information (Gile, 1992; Van Besien, 1999). Thus, interpreters are superior to non-interpreters in syntactic processing (Togato et al., 2015), error detection (Yudes et al., 2012), and working memory (Signorelli et al, 2012).

The materials were an L2 proficiency test, a language background questionnaire, and six oral tasks: eye-tracking, production, online gating, semantic bias, working memory, and phonological short-term memory. This presentation focuses on the eye-tracking task, for which participants listened to sentences in Spanish and chose one of two words in the screen, while their eye movements were recorded. There were 66 sentences: 18 practice, 32 fillers, and 16 experimental (8 per condition: phonetically longer (*c****o****l* “cauliflower”) vs. shorter (c**o**les “cauliflowers”) vowel. In English and Spanish, vowels in monosyllabic words typically have longer duration than in bisyllabic words due to polysyllabic shortening, i.e. [o] in *c****o****l* is phonetically longer than [o] in *c****o****les* (Lehiste, 1972; Reetz & Jongman, 2009), and vowels in CVC syllables (s**o**n “they are”) have longer duration than in CV syllables (s**o** “under”) (Delattre, 1966). Logistic growth curve analysis used for time course fixation on target words revealed that all participants were highly accurate selecting the correct word before and after hearing the suffix, but the interpreters behaved more native-like (faster anticipation) than the non-interpreters. These findings indicate that language experience guides L2 morphosyntactic anticipation.

[299 words]