

## The Perception of Korean Stop Contrast in Heritage Speakers and L2 Learners

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Korean exhibits a typologically marked distinction in stop consonants: lenis stops /p, t, k/ contrast with aspirated stops /p<sup>h</sup>, t<sup>h</sup>, k<sup>h</sup>/ and fortis stops /p̥, t̥, k̥/. Both voice onset time (VOT) and onset f<sub>0</sub> were shown to cue the contrast perceptually (Han & Weitzman, 1970; Kagaya, 1974). Previous work on English-speaking learners of Korean showed that this contrast poses a challenge to L2 learners in both perception and production (Chang, 2010, 2012; Kim & Lotto, 2002; Schmidt, 2007). Perceptually, fortis stops are more readily differentiated from lenis and aspirated stops while lenis and aspirated stops are more difficult to distinguish (Holliday, 2014; Schmidt, 2007; Yasuta, 2004).

We expand on previous work by examining the extent to which Korean heritage speakers born and raised in the U.S and English-speaking L2 learners can perceive the Korean lenis-aspirated contrast in an AX discrimination task. We hypothesize that heritage speakers and L2 learners will show a decrease in their discrimination ability compared to the native baseline due to crosslinguistic influence from English. However, we predict heritage speakers to outperform L2 learners based on previous work documenting an advantage for heritage speakers in both perception and production measures (Chang et al., 2011; Chang & Mandock, 2019; Kim, 2020; Knightly, et al., 2003).

We discuss the divergences between the bilingual and baseline grammars following current theoretical and empirical work documenting the role of potential factors triggering divergent outcomes in heritage and L2 grammars, including age effects, linguistic proficiency, and the bilinguals' specific patterns of language activation and use for production and comprehension purposes (Bylund & Díaz, 2012; Flege, 1995; Flege & Bohn, 2020; Gollan, et al., 2015; Kim & Puigdeliura, 2020; Mazzaro et al., 2016; Pérez-Cortés et al., 2019; Polinsky, 2018; Putnam & Sánchez, 2013; Sánchez, 2020; Shea, 2019).

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