
Learning, aligning to, and generalizing Inter-speaker variability with foreign speakers

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Abstract

We examined how learning speaker-specific language use is affected by the speaker's perceived foreignness. We presented participants with inter-speaker variation in lexical preferences, with speaker A producing favored words and speaker B - disfavored words. We manipulated speaker B's names such that they were either foreign (American or Russian) or native (Israeli). We then examined the differences in how individuals learn and generalize inter-speaker variability, and align speaker-specifically, between these conditions. We show that perceived foreignness affects generalization and alignment, but not the detection of inter-speaker variation. Moreover, different types of social stereotypes towards foreigners influence generalization and alignment differently.

Keywords: speaker, specific, alignment, generalization

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