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# Exploring the Production of Verbal Irony and Prosodic Contours in Native and Second Language Speakers of Italian and English

Alessandra Zappoli<sup>\*†1</sup>, Sara Andreetta<sup>2</sup>, Cinzia Avesani<sup>3</sup>, and Greta Mazzaggio<sup>\*‡1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Università degli Studi di Firenze – Italy

<sup>2</sup>Univerza v Novi Gorici – Slovenia

<sup>3</sup>CNR – Italy

## Abstract

This study investigates the production of verbal irony in native and second-language (L2) speakers of Italian and English. Verbal irony, a figurative use of language, relies on complex interactions of linguistic and social cues. The research aims to provide a phonological and phonetic description of cross-linguistic differences in verbal irony production and analyze L2 learners' ironic utterances. Additionally, it seeks to identify markers for disambiguation in ironic sentences in echo and non-echo condition. Preliminary findings in Italian speakers suggest the use of different pitch contours for literal and ironic speech, with tritonal patterns frequently occurring in ironic echo conditions.

**Keywords:** irony, prosody, second language

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\*Speaker

†Corresponding author: [alessandra.zappoli@unifi.it](mailto:alessandra.zappoli@unifi.it)

‡Corresponding author: [greta.mazzaggio@unifi.it](mailto:greta.mazzaggio@unifi.it)