ProSeg: A comparative corpus of spoken L2 French
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To cite this version:

HAL Id: halshs-02109337
https://halshs.archives-ouvertes.fr/halshs-02109337
Submitted on 24 Apr 2019

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1. Introduction

Advantages of speech corpora in L2 acquisition studies [2]
- They represent the oral dimension in L2 in an ecological way (i.e. with spontaneous speech);
- They put in perspective several explanatory factors affecting the L2 acquisition process and competence, such as L1 transfer, speech style (reading vs. spontaneous speech), age of acquisition. [5, 6]
- They can be used for cross-comparisons between language pairs, especially when using the same recording protocol [6]
- Given these advantages, many current studies are based on speech corpora. But different procedures may be used for data collection, each having its advantages [3]
  - Experimental data targeting specific linguistic phenomena;
  - Naturalistic speech from an oral corpus. ProSeg (Prosody Segments) combines the two procedures.

2. Main features of ProSeg

General features
The ProSeg Corpus has been designed to allow for:
- prosodic and segmental descriptions of L2 French
- comparison of potential effects of L1 transfer
- contrastive analyses of the oral productions in L1 and L2 with a comparable set of data
- analyses of task effects

Procedure
1. Background questionnaire
2. Placement test
   (DIALANG, yes-no vocabulary task, [1])
3. Reading tasks in L2 French
   (several texts including a dialogue)
4. Picture description task
5. Free speech (summary: book/movie)
6. Reading task in the L1

Participants
- 65 participants (so far)
- Recorded both in L2 French and in their L1
- All learners are university students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>L1</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Age (SD)</th>
<th>Proficiency Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>Turin</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25.2 (SD = 3.7)</td>
<td>B1-C1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>Konstanz</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>24.6 (SD = 6.5)</td>
<td>B1-C2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swedish</td>
<td>Lund</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25 (SD = 5)</td>
<td>B2-C1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>Paris 8</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>26 (SD = 5)</td>
<td>Native</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


(Non-native) gemination in L2 French
- Analysis of <CC> vs. <C> spelling, e.g., immigrés, (immigrated) vs ‘imité’ (imitate)
- Results: Italians produce geminate consonants in L2 French due to L1 transfer and, specifically, of L1 orthography [4]

Foreign Accent Rating
- Two sentences extracted from read texts with no self-repairs or hesitations
- Judgments by native and non-native speakers of French (including teachers of French) in terms of
  - i) accent strength
  - ii) accent source (L1)

Prosodic phrasing and rhythm
- Prosodic analysis of the segmentation, durational and tonal patterns in accentual phrases (APs)
- Data taken from the long text and the monologues. Comparison of L1 German, L1 Swedish, L1 Italian and L1 French speakers.
- Hypothesis: L1 Swedish learners have advantages in producing e APs in L2 French due to the existence of a tonal accent in Swedish.