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Word Recognition Scores by Native and Non-Native Speakers of Modern Greek Language

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The goal of this study was to examine performance on word recognition score testing of native and non-native adults of Modern Greek language in quiet and at various signal-to-noise ratios (SNR). The individuals who participated in this investigation included twenty native Modern Greek adult listeners and twenty adult listeners for whom Modern Greek is a second language (GSL). All GSL subjects were Albanian natives who learned Albanian as a first language and Modern Greek as a second language after puberty and lived for a minimum of five years in Greece. All subjects had pure tone thresholds of ≤ 15 dB HL at all octave frequencies ranging from 250 Hz to 8000 Hz with no known history of auditory dysfunction or neurological disorder. The speech stimuli used in this experiment were the four 50-word lists developed by Trimmis and colleagues (2006). Speech-shaped noise was used as the noise competition. Testing was conducted in a sound isolated booth with all stimuli presented monaurally (right ear) at 40dBSL. Word recognition scores were assessed in quiet and under 5 different SNRs (SNR= +6, +3, 0, -3, and -6 dBHL). Results indicated that although both groups obtained essentially equivalent scores in quiet, performance was poorer for both groups across all SNR conditions. In addition, significant differences were noted between the groups as the SNR became less favorable. These findings are consistent with previous research suggesting that bilingual listeners will exhibit decreased perceptual performance in the second language in degraded listening environments.

Literatur:

Trimmis N, Papadeas E, Papadas T, Naxakis S, Papathanasopoulos P, Goumas P. Speech Audiometry: The Development of Modern Greek Word Lists for Suprathreshold Word Recognition Testing. *Mediterr J Otol* 2006; 3:117-126.

