

Confronting our own linguistic biases: An exploration of heritage speakers' sociophonetic perception

A presentation by the OSUCHiLL 2020 keynote speaker
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Heritage Spanish speakers in the United States are often subjected to linguistic discrimination from the general public but also from language authorities, including language instructors and even linguists. The present study focuses on the perception of heritage Spanish speakers in a socially relevant map task using matched-guise methodology. More specifically, 75 second-generation Mexican Americans listened to five Mexican and Puerto Rican men giving directions and were asked to rate the speakers along a matrix of social properties, e.g., niceness and intelligence, and provide additional written thoughts about the voices. The results show that second-generation Mexican Spanish speakers in the United States are highly sensitive to sociophonetic information, but this information is strongly filtered through their own lives and relationships in the local community. Linguistic research can be a valuable tool to counter linguistic discrimination, but an experimental design that takes into account heritage speakers' lived experiences and the value of socially meaningful communication is needed to avoid unintentionally perpetuating a deficit perspective.

Friday, October 30, 2020
2:20pm-3:40pm

Join us via the following Zoom link - please make sure to connect on time!
<https://osu.zoom.us/j/96716751908?pwd=azhKdnIBTXEvNUpDKytXejZNbTFPUT09>

Meeting ID: 967 1675 1908
Password: 911279

