

Second-language Phonetics, Phonology and Pronunciation

Spring Semester 2024-2025



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Webpage: https://en.phil.uoa.gr/erasmus_civis/

E-class: <https://eclass.uoa.gr/courses/PHIL1532/>

Class Hours: Thursday 12pm-3pm

Language: English (B2)

ECTS: 4

Course description

This course examines issues related with the phonetics and phonology of second language (L2) acquisition. These include a discussion of current L2 theories and how they address notions such as the critical period hypothesis, differences between first (L1) and L2 acquisition, factors affecting degree of foreign accent, plasticity of the human brain, and effects of L1 on L2 learning. Computer-based training techniques and state-of-the-art L2 pronunciation apps will also be discussed with focus on the teaching of Greek pronunciation to L2 learners from different L1 backgrounds.

Key terms

Second language learning, phonetics, phonology, pronunciation

Course aims and learner outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand and discuss current theories of second language speech perception and pronunciation
- Understand why specific sounds pose difficulty to learners from different first-language backgrounds with focus on the learning of Greek as a second/foreign language
- Assess current pronunciation apps and create platforms for teaching pronunciation

Course Assessment

1. Short essay (30%)
3. Final exams (70%)

Course outline

Week 1: Introduction to course

Week 2: Main concepts in phonetics and phonology

Week 3: The Greek sound system

Week 4: First-language acquisition vs. second/foreign language acquisition

Weeks 5-8: Factors affecting degree of foreign accent

Week 9: Relationship between L2 perception and production

Week 10: Computer-assisted pronunciation teaching (platforms, apps)

Useful readings

- Best, C. T. (1995). A direct realist view of cross-language speech perception. In *Speech perception and linguistic experience: Issues in Cross-language Research*, edited by W. Strange (York, Baltimore) pp. 171-204.
- Bohn, O.-S. (1995). Cross-language speech perception in adults. In Strange, W., ed., *Speech perception and linguistic experience*. Timonium, MD: York Press, 275-300.
- Bongaerts, T., Van Summeren, C., Planken, B., and Schils, E. (1997). Age and ultimate attainment in the pronunciation of a foreign language. *Studies in Second Language Acquisition*, 19, 447–465.
- Bradlow, A. R., Pisoni, D. B., Yamada, R. A., and Tohkura, Y. (1997). Training Japanese listeners to identify English /r/ and /l/: IV. Some effects of perceptual learning on speech production. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 101(4), 2299-2310.
- Flege, J. E., Bohn, O.-S. & Jang, S., 1997, Effects of experience on non-native speakers' production and perception of English vowels. *Journal of Phonetics* 25, 437-470.
- Flege, J. E. (1995). Second language speech learning: Theory, findings, and problems. In *Speech perception and linguistic experience: Issues in Cross-language Research*, edited by W. Strange (York, Baltimore) pp. 233-277.
- Iverson, P., and Evans, B. G. (2009). Learning English vowels with different first-language vowel systems II: Auditory training for native Spanish and German speakers. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 126, 866-877.
- Lambacher, S. G., Martens, W. L., Kakehi, K., Marasinghe, C. A., and Molholt, G. (2005). The effects of identification training on the identification and production of American English vowels by native speakers of Japanese. *Applied Psycholinguistics*, 26, 227-247.
- Lengeris, A. (2018). Computer-based auditory training improves second-language vowel pronunciation in spontaneous speech, *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America Express Letters*, EL165-171.
- Munro, M. J., & Bohn, O.-S. (2007). The study of second language speech learning: A brief overview. In O.-S. Bohn & M. J. Munro (Eds.), *Language Experience in Second Language Speech Learning* (pp. 3-12). Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Useful internet sites

- **The IPA:** <https://www.internationalphoneticassociation.org/> with useful information on sounds, the IPA chart, IPA fonts, links to other sites with useful information on education and research in phonetics, and downloadable software for speech analysis
- Interactive IPA chart: <https://www.ipachart.com/>. Click on symbols and listen to the sounds
- **Phonetics and pronunciation teaching:** Clear and well-organised summary written by Michael Ashby <http://www.llas.ac.uk/resources/gpg/404>

Other resources

Software: Praat (free at <http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/>)