

The Brown Bag Lunch Talk series by Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Teaching and Research (ptjc@ualberta.ca)



Wednesday January 24th, 12-1pm, CAB 357 (Refreshments will be provided)

The effect of speech style on phonetic reduction of nasals and voiced stops in Japanese

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Research has shown that spontaneous and casual speech contains large amount of phonetic variation and reduction as compared to read and careful speech. In this talk, I examine the degree of phonetic reduction across four styles of speech by measuring the duration and intensity difference for nasals (i.e., /m/, /n/, /N/) and voiced stops (i.e., /b/, /d/, /g/) using a large-scale Japanese speech corpus. The results indicate that the way in which speech style affects phonetic reduction, as well as the extent to which speech style influences the degree of phonetic reduction, depend on the individual phonemes. In other words, the way in which speakers reduce segments is not consistent across both speech styles and phonemes, meaning that the way speakers implement reduction is variable depending not only on speech style but also individual phoneme.



Yoichi Mukai is a PhD candidate in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Alberta. He is a member of Alberta Phonetics Lab and Centre for Comparative Psycholinguistics. His research interests lie in experimental linguistics, in particular phonetics and psycholinguistics. His research focuses on pronunciation variants, particularly reduced forms, of Japanese words in casual speech and the effect of orthographic and phonological consistency in spoken word recognition.

