

Psycho Club

How to optimize foreign
accent in speech sound
and word production

Guest Lecture hosted by Prof. Eduardo Navarrete

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Room 2A
via Venezia, 12 Padova

Attendance Event

<https://www.psicologia.unipd.it/psycho-club-program>



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Most second language (L2) learners experience difficulties in acquiring novel speech sounds and never reach a native-like pronunciation in the L2, leading them to speak with a characteristic foreign accent. But, given that speaking an L2 with a foreign accent leads to cognitive costs for the listeners and negative social impacts for the speakers, there is a need for L2 learners to practice and improve pronunciation during learning. In this talk, we will present a series of experiments suggesting that L2 word learning and pronunciation can be improved when the input includes multiple talkers, and is produced in foreign-directed speech; when L1 orthographic input is kept minimal and a color-code is used in L2 orthographic input; if no other non-native language is intermixed, and when the training method includes typing. Those results have important implications for models on L2 speech production and learning, but also for education and improvement of teaching strategies.

