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# ProSeg: A comparative corpus of spoken L2 French

# Elisabeth DELAIS-ROUSSARIE<sup>1</sup>, Tanja KUPISCH<sup>2</sup>, Paolo MAIRANO<sup>3</sup>, Fabian SANTIAGO<sup>4</sup> & Frida SPLENDIDO<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>CNRS & Université de Nantes, <sup>2</sup>Universität Konstanz/UiT The Arctic University of Norway, <sup>3</sup>Université de Lille, <sup>4</sup>Université Paris 8, <sup>5</sup>Lund University

CONTACT: elisabeth.delais-roussarie@univ.nantes.fr

## 1. Introduction

### Advantages of speech corpora in L2 acquisition studies [2]

- They represent of the oral dimension in an L2 in an ecological way (i.e. with spontaneous speech);
- They put in perspective several explanatory factors affecting the L2 acquisition process and competence, such as L1 transfer, speech style (reading vs. spontaneous speech), age of acquisition. [5, 6]
- They can be used for cross-comparisons between language pairs, especially when using the same recording protocol [6]
- Given these advantages, many current studies are based on speech corpora. But different procedures may be used for data collection, each having its advantages [3]
  - Experimental data targeting specific linguistic phenomena;
  - Naturalistic speech from an oral corpus. ProSeg (Prosody Segmentals) combines the two procedures.

Mais ma chienne est inoffensive et

# 2. Main features of ProSeg

#### **General features**

The ProSeg Corpus has been designed to allow for :

- prosodic and segmental descriptions of L2 French
- comparison of potential effects of L1 transfer
- contrastive analyses of the oral productions in L1 and L2 with a comparable set of data
- analyses of task effects

#### **Procedure**

- 1. Background questionnaire
- 2. Placement test (DIALANG, yes-no vocabulary task, [1])
- 3. Reading tasks in L2 French (several texts including a dialogue)
- 4. Picture description task
- 5. Free speech (summary: book/ movie)
- 6. Reading task in the L1

# **Participants**

- 65 participants (so far)
- Recorded both in L2 French and in their L1
- All learners are university students

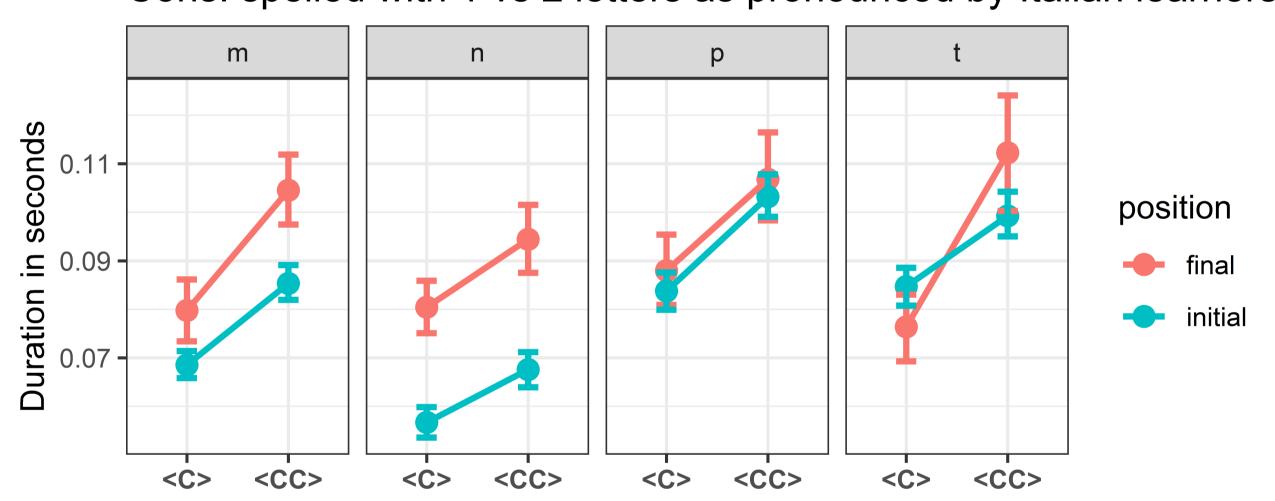
L1	University	N	Age	Proficiency Level
Italian	Turin	25	25.2 (SD = $3.7$ )	B1-C1
German	Konstanz	21	24.6 (SD = 6.5)	B1-C2
Swedish	Lund	5	25 (SD = 5)	B2 -C1
French (controls)	Paris 8	14	26 (SD = 5)	Native

# 3. Studies in progess/preparation

## (Non-native) gemination in L2 French

- Analysis of <CC> vs. <C> spelling, e.g., immigrés, (immigrated) vs 'imiter' (imitate)
- Results: Italians produce geminate consonants in L2 French due to L1 transfer and, specifically, of L1 orthography [4]

Cons. spelled with 1 vs 2 letters as pronounced by Italian learners



#### Foreign Accent Rating

- Two sentences extracted from read texts with no self-repairs or hesitations
- Judgments by native and non-native speakers of French (including teachers of French) in terms of
  - (i) accent strength
  - (ii) accent source (L1)

### Prosodic phrasing and rhythm

- Prosodic analysis of the segmentation, durational and tonal patterns in accentual phrases (APs)
- Data taken from the long text and the monologues.
  Comparison of L1 German, L1 Swedish, L1 Italian and L1 French speakers.
- Hypothesis: L1 Swedish learners have advantages in producing e APs in L2 French due to the existence of a tonal accent in Swedish.

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