The Research Group First Language Acquisition

presents in the CLS Colloquium Lunch Series:

First language acquisition and beyond

by Paula Fikkert, Laura Hahn & Antje Stöhr

In this colloquium talk we briefly present the group, after which Laura will present the results of her last experiment on recognition of phrase boundaries in song and speech, and Antje discusses the production data of the parents of bilingual children.

Phrasing of acoustic information is a universal phenomenon that can be observed in human speech, song and instrumental music. Here we investigate whether infants are able to exploit the acoustic boundary between phrases to perceptually organize the information in song, as well as in speech. Six-month-old Dutch infants were tested within the headturn-preference paradigm. The results provide novel evidence for infants’ domain general ability to segment acoustic information into smaller constituents, while we fail to replicate infants’ ability to segment speech into phrases. Our results might be partly driven by differences between our and earlier studies in experimental design and stimuli. Yet they also shed novel light on the early connections between processing music and speech.

Adults speaking a second language (L2) often are identified as non-natives as their speech contains phonetic properties from their native language. With increasing L2 proficiency, the L2 can also influence the L1, leading to a foreign accent in L1. This presentation focuses on VOT productions of Dutch-German late bilinguals in the Netherlands, who speak either Dutch or German as L1. All participants are married to a native speaker of the other language and use both languages at home. The results suggest that success in acquiring native-like VOT in the L2 and in maintaining native-like VOT in the L1 may be constrained by frequency and context of use. In addition, the results indicate that the VOT of an individual can be predicted from the spouses VOT productions.

When: Tuesday 11 October, 2016 12:45-13:30
Lunch is provided! To register, please send an email to: clscolloquium@let.ru.nl
Where: E2.54 (Erasmus Building)
For more information, see www.ru.nl/cls