

## **Turn-end estimation in conversational speech: The roles of context and intonation.**

Francisco Torreira (Department of Linguistics, McGill University, Montreal)

One of the most puzzling characteristics of conversational interaction from a cognitive point of view is the prevalence of rapid transitions between speakers (200 - 300 ms on average; Levinson & Torreira, 2015). Several psycholinguistic studies devoted to this question have used an online button-press task to tap into participants' turn-projection behavior (De Ruiter et al., 2006, among others). An important limitation of these studies is that they have always used turns extracted from their original context. In the first part of this talk, I will discuss an experiment investigating the role of contextual information in turn-end estimation. Participants were presented with turns extracted from a corpus of telephone calls (1) visually (i.e., in transcribed form, word by word) and (2) auditorily, and asked to anticipate turn ends by pressing a button. The availability of the previous conversational context was generally helpful for turn-end estimation in short turns only, and more clearly so in the visual task than in the auditory task. In the second part of this talk, I will present an analysis of the same data investigating the role of intonation, for which experimental evidence is still limited. We examined whether participants in the auditory task of the experiment discussed above pressed the button close to turn-medial points likely to constitute turn ends based on lexico-syntactic information alone, and observed that the vast majority of such button presses occurred in the presence of an intonational boundary rather than in its absence. These results are consistent with the view that prosodic cues in the proximity of turn ends play a relevant role in turn-end estimation (Bögels & Torreira, 2015).

### References

- Bögels, S., & Torreira, F. (2015). Listeners use intonational phrase boundaries to project turn ends in spoken interaction. *Journal of Phonetics*, 52, 46–57.
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