

## **Phonetic Accommodation in Spanish-English and Korean-English Bilinguals**

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A variety of investigations have shown that phonetic categories can change systematically during various kinds of verbal interaction (Giles, Coupland & Coupland, 1991; Nielsen, 2011). These effects, often referred to as phonetic accommodation or phonetic drift, are attested both within (Babel, 2012) and between (Chang, 2012; Khattab, 2013; Sancier & Fowler, 1997) languages. The findings cast doubt on the validity of a critical period for language acquisition (Lenneberg, 1967) and query the nature of any sensitive period (Kuhl et al., 2008). However, considerable between-speaker variation has also been reported in the extent of accommodation (Pardo, 2006). In two new investigations on accommodation of oral-laryngeal coordination (voice onset time) in Spanish-English and Korean-English bilinguals, we propose that (i) language-specific patterns of articulatory coordination and (ii) general principles of coordinative stability are among the factors that constrain accommodation. Results show that long-lag voiceless stops are more likely to shorten than short-lag voiceless stops are to lengthen. We suggest that principles of dynamical systems provide the foundation for a theoretical account of phonetic accommodation.