[F35] Production and perceptual correlates of Spanish-accented English. Amee P. Shah, School of Communication Sciences and Disorders, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. [Full Paper Available on CD]

This study attempted to identify the acoustic deviations in the speech of Spanish-accented speakers of English and their influence on the native perception of accentedness. Recordings of eight multisyllabic target words spoken in sentences by 22 Spanish speakers of English and five native speakers of American English were analyzed for temporal acoustic differences. Acoustic deviations in Spanish-accented speech included overall word duration, unstressed vowel duration, stressed-unstressed (S/U) vowel duration ratios, Voice Onset Time (VOT) and closure duration in intervocalic flaps/stops. Native listeners listened to the nonnative samples and assigned a range of ratings of accentedness. Results showed that the accentedness ratings were correlated to varying degrees with each of overall word duration, S/U vowel duration ratios, VOT duration, and closure duration of intervocalic /t/. Overall, results suggest that Spanish-accented English is characterized by systematic temporal differences from native American English, and that these temporal differences are related to the perception of accentedness as judged by native AE listeners.