

**Anupama Bhatt. *University of California.***  
Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>: 10:00-10:30

Perception Study of Hindi Consonants by Native English Speakers

The current experiment examines the effect of early exposure to a non-English language in adult perception of foreign sounds. Focusing on the subjects' auditory perception and discrimination ability of Hindi breathy consonants, it expands on a previous study conducted by J.C. Catford and David B. Pisoni in 1970. Subjects are divided into two groups: experience with Hindi and no experience with Hindi. Those subjects without experience are trained to recognize the sounds. The auditory training method consists of a systematic playback of Hindi sounds, while the articulatory training method allows the instructor to teach subjects how to pronounce the sounds. Subjects are then re-evaluated in their discriminative ability of Hindi breathy consonants. A production exam tests whether the articulatory or auditory training method improves verbal imitation of the sounds. Previous results show a significant improvement of articulatory trainees over auditory trainees; articulatory trainees never listened to the sounds in training: they only learned how to articulate them. Results are expected to verify Catford's experiment. Furthermore, the superior results of subjects familiar with Hindi seek to emphasize the advantage of early exposure to a non-English language in an adult subject's perception of foreign language.

References

(Catford, J.C. and David B. Pisoni. 1970. Auditory vs. Articulatory Training in Exotic Sounds. *The Modern Language Journal* 54(7): 477-481).