

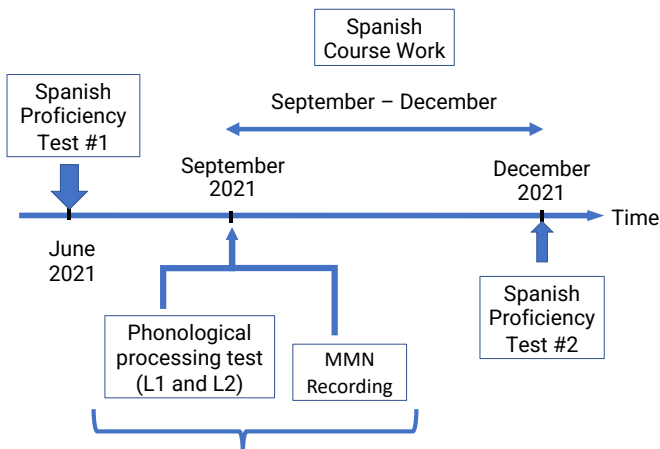
Introduction

- Phonological processing in early childhood predicts later literacy development in first language acquisition
- Does this relationship apply to second language development later in life?
- Phonological processing can be measured by EEG, specifically looking at the brain wave called MMN

Methods

- Recruited English native speakers on campus who were enrolled in Spanish intro-level classes
- Measured their phonological processing skills, general Spanish proficiency, and MMN

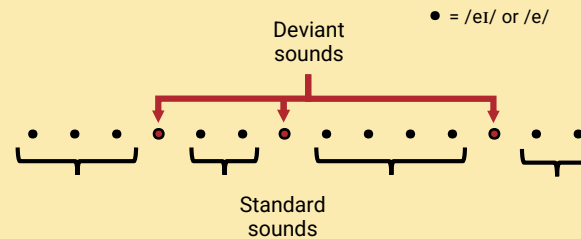
Figure 1. Timeline of the experiment.



EEG and Stimuli

- Stimuli: English /eɪ/ and Spanish /e/ sound
- Oddball Paradigm
 - Listening to a sequence of standard and deviant sounds
 - Measures automatic attention paid to the deviant sound

Figure 2. Oddball paradigm example.



Behavioral Results

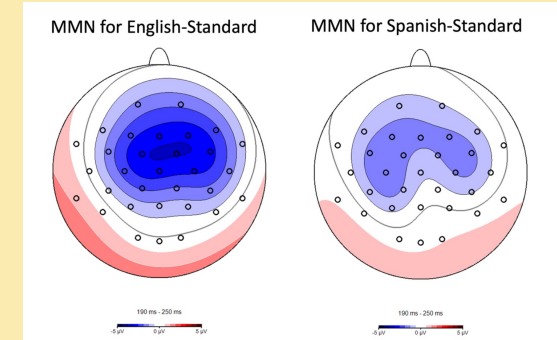
L1 = English, L2 = Spanish

- People who score higher in phonological processing test in L1 also scored higher in phonological processing test in L2
- Significant correlation between phonological processing scores in L1 and L2 improvement, but no significant correlation between phonological processing in L2 and L2 improvement
- Significant correlation between two Spanish tests at the beginning and at the end of the semester

EEG Results

- 2 Conditions
 - English /eɪ/ as standard and Spanish /e/ as deviant
 - Spanish /e/ as standard and English /eɪ/ as deviant
- English standard elicited stronger MMN compared to Spanish standard

Figure 3. Topography of MMN in two conditions.



*Deeper blue indicates stronger MMN

Key Results

- Phonological processing in L1 and general L2 acquisition was correlated
- MMN in English-standard condition and phonological processing in L2

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my advisor Dr. Herzmann for the mentorship we've had over the course of four years. Thank you, Carla, for all the encouragement and support through four years, especially through IS process. I would like to thank my friends and family for supporting me. Thank you to all the participants for helping me complete my IS. Last but not least, thank you so much to KatiaSofia for helping me prepare stimuli. I could not have completed this project without you.