
Prosodic factors in written and spoken production: A multi-method approach

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This study assesses the application of three research methods, examining the impact of prosodic factors on the position of French adjectives as an illustrative case. We analyse whether adjective-noun pairs are preferably ordered with respect to i) increasing length in number of syllables and ii) alternating phrasal prominence. We investigate 24 adjectives characterised by flexible pre- and postnominal positioning without distinct systematic interpretations, see (1).

- (1) a. un charmant garçon b. un garçon charmant 'a charming boy'
a charming boy a boy charming

The experimental tasks target complementary aspects of the perception-production continuum, representing both the written and spoken modality. In a forced-choice task, participants chose between two written sentences differing only in adjective position. This engages full written comprehension and involves production-related decision making (Arppe & Järvikivi 2007; Sprouse et al. 2013). In an elicited production task, participants heard two sentences and orally combined them into one, engaging an online reconstructive process: decoding the input, then recoding it into a new linguistic output consistent with their internal grammar (Erlam 2006; Hsieh & Lee 2014). Finally, the corpus study analyses written data from the French Web Corpus, where written output reflects all production stages, as described in Levelt's (1989) speech production model.

While an impact of prosodic factors across modalities is anticipated, a stronger effect is expected in spoken production due to overt phonological encoding. Although results converge across tasks, notable differences emerge. Overall, adjectives tend to appear in order of increasing length. Yet positional preferences diverge: postnominal placement dominates in written perception and spoken production, whereas the written corpus data favour prenominal position. Adjacent prominent syllables are generally avoided but more salient in spoken production, where prosody is overtly encoded.

References: Arppe, A., & J. Järvikivi (2007). Every method counts: Combining corpus-based and experimental evidence in the study of synonymy. *Corpus Linguistics and Linguistic Theory* 3(2). • Erlam, R. (2006). Elicited Imitation as a Measure of L2 Implicit Knowledge: An Empirical Validation Study. *Applied Linguistics* 27(3). • Hsieh, A. F.-Y., & M.-K. Lee (2014). The Evolution of Elicited Imitation: Syntactic Priming Comprehension and Production Task. *Applied Linguistics* 35(5). • Levelt, W. J. M. (1989). *Speaking: From intention to articulation*. MIT press. • Sprouse, J., Schütze, C. T., & D. Almeida (2013). A comparison of informal and formal acceptability judgments using a random sample from Linguistic Inquiry 2001–2010. *Lingua* 134.