

# PRODUCTION OF DEACCENTING UNDER REPETITION, ENTAILMENT, AND BRIDGING: PHONETIC AND PERCEPTUAL COMPARISONS

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CHICAGO

# ANAPHORIC DEACCENTING - IDENTITY

She thought I played the viola, but  
I don't **like** the viola.

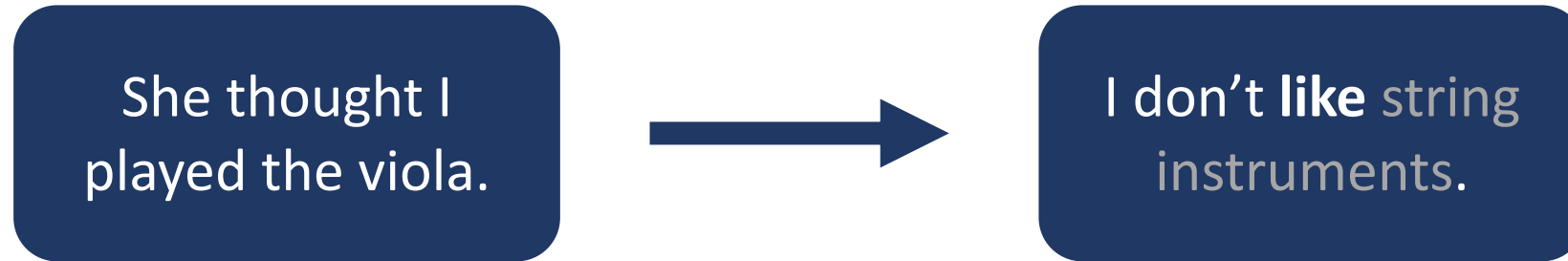
# ANAPHORIC DEACCENTING - NONIDENTITY

She thought I played the viola, but  
I don't **like** string instruments.

# LICENSING DEACCENTING UNDER NONIDENTITY

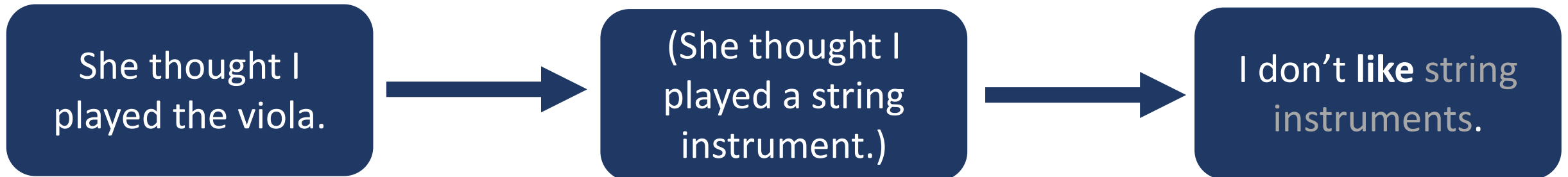
## Semantic antecedence:

(Rochemont 1986, Rooth 1992, Schwarzschild 1999, Sauerland 2005, Büring 2016)



## Accommodation:

(Tancredi 1992, Fox 2000, Wagner 2012)



# WHICH ACCOUNT IS CORRECT?

Move beyond binary un/acceptable judgment to assess felicitousness of deaccenting under nonidentity.

Collecting naturalistic stimuli for a perception study is also an opportunity to study production.

# EXPERIMENT 1 – PRODUCTION

10 native American English speakers (5 female)

Read aloud critical sentences embedded in three-sentence carrier

Constant number of syllables before critical clause onset

Instructed to read entire paragraph and plan how to say it before speaking

# CRITICAL SENTENCES

*SVO and SVO*

**S2:** monosyllable, discourse-new

**O2:** trochee, discourse-old

**V2:** iamb, variable discourse status

# CRITICAL VERB DISCOURSE STATUS

**New:** Second verb is fully discourse-new

*Elijah **rebuffed** Laura, and Ron **embraced** Laura.*

**Inferable:** First and second verb linked by inferencing relation

*Veronica **hugged** Laura, and Ron **embraced** Laura.*

**Repeated:** First and second verb identical

*Christina **embraced** Laura, and Ron **embraced** Laura.*



# PREDICTIONS AND QUESTION

Canonical **discourse-new** pattern:

*Elijah rebuffed Laura, and Ron **embraced** Laura.*

Canonical **discourse-old** pattern:

*Christina embraced Laura, and **Ron** embraced Laura.*

Do **inferable verb** sentences act like **new** or **old**?

# DATA PROCESSING

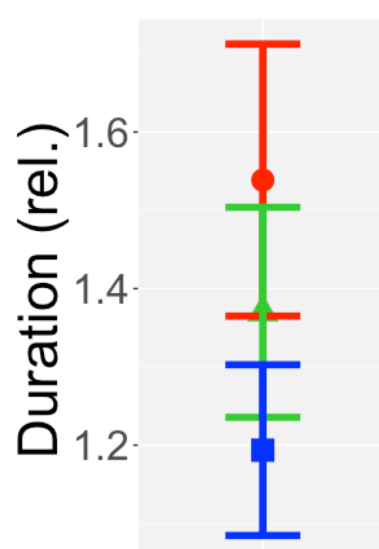
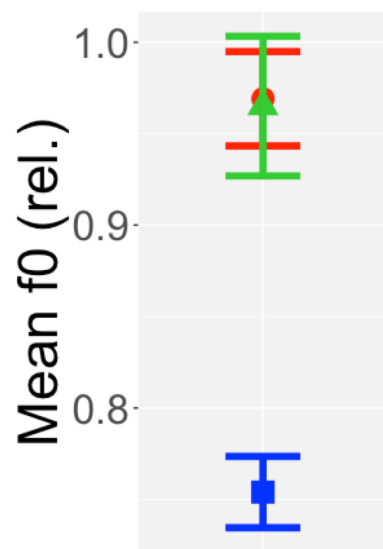
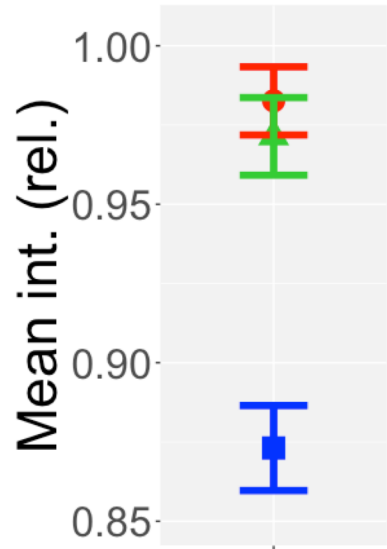
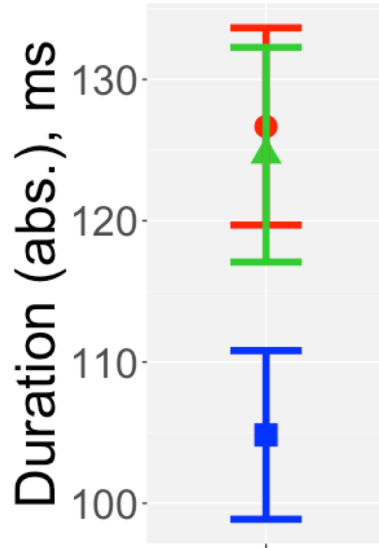
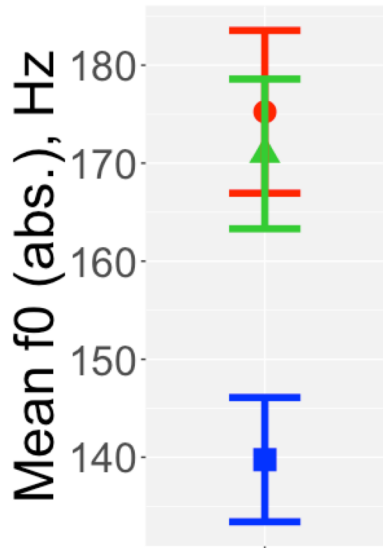
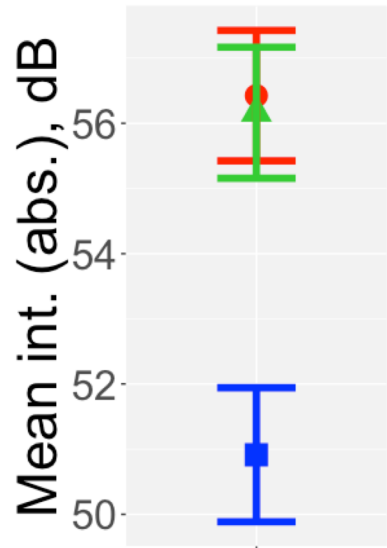
Absolute phonetic correlates extracted from V2 stressed nucleus using ProsodyPro: (Xu 2013)

mean intensity, mean  $f_0$ , duration

Values relativized to S2 nucleus:

relative intensity, relative  $f_0$ , relative duration

# RESULTS



Verb status

- New
- ▲ Inferable
- Repeated

Significant effect of verb status ( $p$ 's < .05)

Inferable-Repeated significant ( $p$ 's < .001)  
(except rel. dur.,  $p$  > .2)

Inferable-New n.s. ( $p$ 's > .2)

# EXPERIMENT 2 – PERCEPTION OF ACCENT

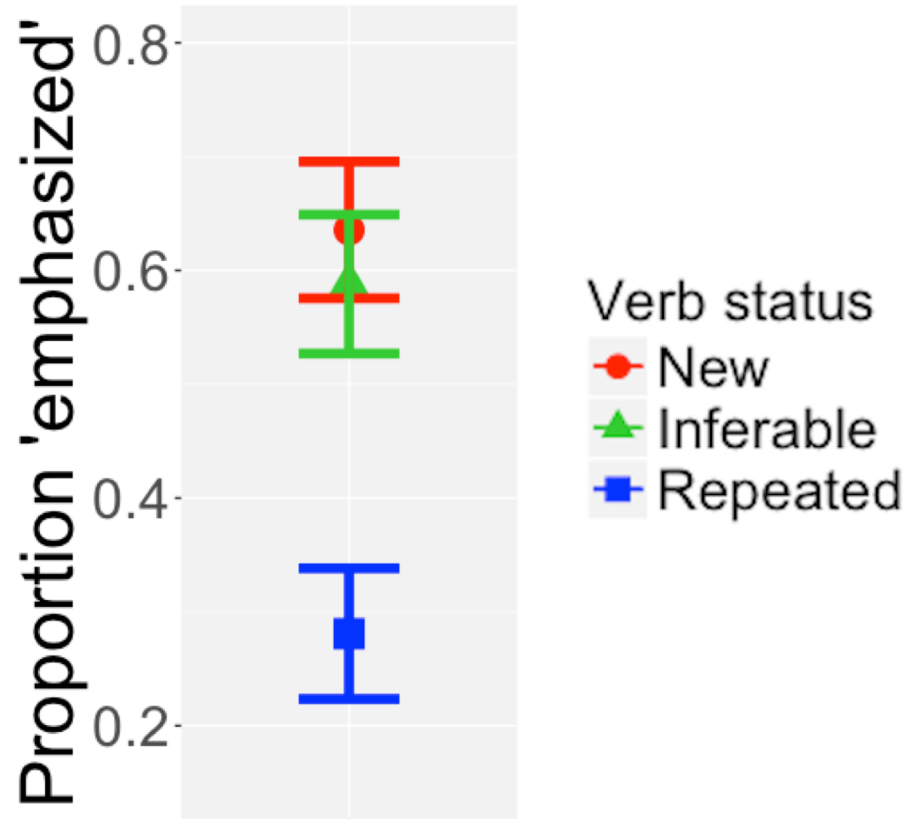
Does listeners' perception of accent correspond to the phonetic measurements?

*Elijah rebuffed Laura, and Ron embraced Laura.*

Was “embraced” emphasized or not emphasized?

200 Amazon Mechanical Turk users

# RESULTS



Significant effect of verb status ( $p < .001$ )

Inferable-Repeated significant ( $p$ 's  $< .001$ )

Inferable-New n.s. ( $p > .2$ )

# DISCUSSION

New verbs: high phonetic values, perceived as emphasized

Repeated verbs: low phonetic values, perceived as not emphasized

Inferable verbs pattern with new verbs to the exclusion of repeated verbs

# DISCUSSION

Preliminary indication that anaphoric deaccenting doesn't come "for free" with semantic antecedent

Supports a licensing account with a higher cost associated with anaphoric deaccenting (accommodation)

**Caveat:** Participants did not plan utterances and inferencing relation may not have been obvious

# FOLLOW-UP WORK

Assessment of felicitousness of anaphorically deaccented constituents in perception

Exploration of individual differences in production and perception preferences



THANKS TO...



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