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## THE INFLUENCE OF THE SPEAKER'S MOTHER TONGUE ON THE SIGNALLING OF WORD BOUNDARIES IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

This report deals with glottalization in Finnish and English.<sup>1</sup> Glottalization may occur in English both word-initially and word-medially in front of a syllable beginning with a vowel, whereas in Finnish it is possible only at a morphotactic word boundary.

It appears that the difficulties connected with glottalization are ultimately linked to the fact that the category of the word in Finnish differs morphophonematically from that in English. Although various function words (prepositions, articles, etc.) are free morphemes preceding their head words in English, the corresponding elements in Finnish are suffixed to the head words. Thus the semantic content of a *morphophonological word* differs considerably in the two languages. It is very likely that the need for signalling word boundaries in synthetic languages (e.g. Finnish) is different from that in analytic languages (e.g. Germanic languages), since the concept of the word differs in the linguistic processes of the speakers.

Preliminary results show that Finns indicate lexical boundaries phonetically far more frequently in the pronunciation of English than English speakers. Variation in the assignment of linking, glottalization and pauses in the pronunciation of English by Finnish speakers does not correlate with the constituent structure of English. Similar differences may also appear between Finnish and Swedish. Accordingly, typical pronunciation errors by a Finn are, for instance, *I'm ?only ?eight years ?old* pro *I'm<sub>1</sub>only<sub>2</sub>eight years<sub>3</sub>old* and *ett ?öl* pro *ett<sub>1</sub>öl<sub>2</sub>* in Swedish.

Attention will be focused on psycho-acoustic aspects of glottalization in the future. Electroglottography will be included, and Swedish will be compared with Finnish and English.

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