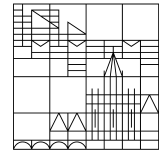


New information vs. corrective focus

Perception of duration differences in Urdu/Hindi



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Background & Motivation:

- Structural focus position: preverbal (Butt & King 1997)
- Prosodic realization of different focus types in a language with a structural focus position?
 - ✓ Genzel & K ugler (2010) and Choudhary & Kaiser (2016): longer duration, wider F0 span in corrective compared with broad focus
 - ✓ F ery, Panday & Kentner (2016): no systematic difference between new information, selection, and corrective focus
- Can using a different paradigm help us understand prosodic realization of different focus types in Urdu/Hindi?
- Production (previous researches) vs. perception (current study) of new information and corrective focus

Experiment:

Stimuli:

- 12 sentences, in contexts, recorded by a female native speaker
- New info and correctively focused objects at preverbal position
- Focused constituents: disyllabic nouns + case marker (ko)
- Syllable duration (sec.) in stimuli: corrective > new information

Focus	1 st Syllable (stressed)	2 nd Syllable	Case Marker
New information	.195	.132	.136
Corrective	.238	.158	.132
Difference	43	26	-4

Manipulation:

- Original duration vs. PSOLA-manipulated versions (duration of other focus condition)

Participants & Procedure:

- 12 sentences * 2 recording contexts (new/corrective)
- * 2 presented contexts (new/corrective) * 2 durations (long/short)
- 2 experimental lists: 48 target items + 14 fillers each
- Between-subject design
- Web-based rating experiment with 29 speakers of Urdu

1. Read the context
2. Listen to the sentence
3. Rate the naturalness of the sentence in the given context

Data Analysis:

- Eliminated data with RTs < 5sec. (relative to onset of contexts)
- LMER of ratings with duration, recorded, and presented contexts as main effects and their interactions; items and participants as crossed random factors

Contexts:

New Information focus:

The gardener was working in the garden when someone asked him to fetch a resident of the house. Your mother asks whom the gardener had fetched. You reply:

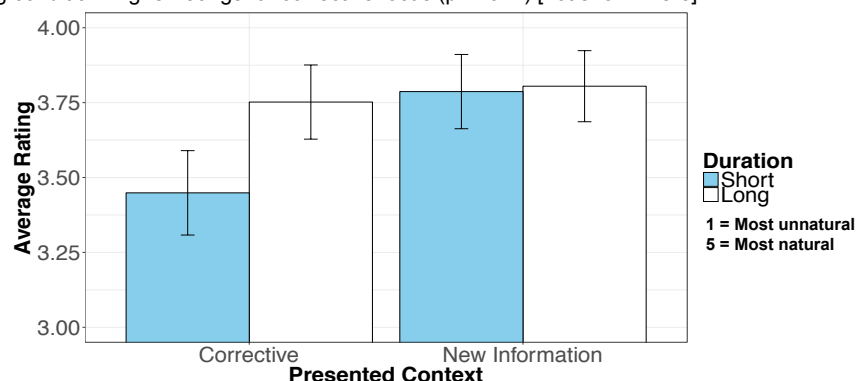
mali=ne zara=ko_F b la _{di}.ja  a
gardener.M.Sg=Erg Zara.F.Sg=Acc call-Perf give-Perf.M.Sg be.Past.M.Sg
'The gardener had called Zara.'

Corrective focus:

The gardener was working in the garden when someone asked him to fetch a resident of the house. Your mother thinks that the gardener had fetched Ali. You correct her and say that, in fact:

Results:

- Interaction between duration and presented context ($p = .004$)
- New information focus: both long and short durations are equally acceptable
- Corrective focus: short durations are rated significantly worse than long durations ($p = .0007$)
- Main effect of recording condition: higher ratings for corrective focus ($p = .017$) [not shown here]



Average ratings for duration manipulation in new information and corrective contexts. The whiskers indicate CI (95%).

Discussion:

- Confirmation of Genzel & K ugler (2010) and Choudhary & Kaiser's (2016) finding that longer duration signals corrective focus
- F ery et al.'s (2016) data set may be too small and therefore lacks statistical power
- We hypothesize the asymmetry in ratings results from:
 - ✓ Structural focus position for new information focus that renders duration marking redundant
 - ✓ Higher sensitivity to the correct prosodic realization in marked contexts (corrective) but acceptance of prosodically over marked forms in less marked contexts (new information) (Braun 2004)