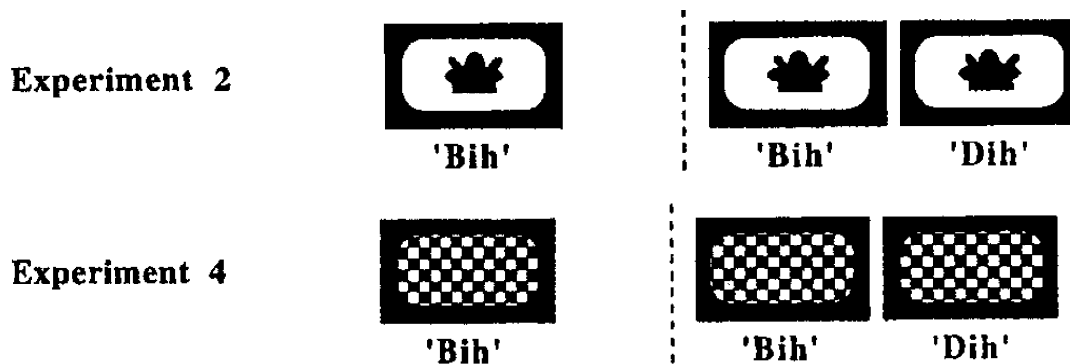


Psych156A/ Ling150
Homework 3: Sounds of Words

1) Sigmund von Hacklestein was very impressed by the idea that speakers of a language have a native language filter like the Functional Reorganization Hypothesis claims. But he was a little unsure how exactly this would help children learn the words of their language. Briefly explain to Sigmund why a filter for native language perceptual categories (phonemes) would be helpful to children learning words. (Note: Sigmund often finds it easier to understand an explanation if you give him a specific example to illustrate your point.) [3 pts]

2) Stager & Werker (1997) found that 14 month olds performed differently in a variety of novel word-learning experiments. Below are two figures representing different experiments in that series.



(a) Briefly describe the results of these two experiments. [2 pts]

(b) What was the crucial difference between these two experiments? Why would this difference cause the results that Stager & Werker found? [3 pts]

3) Being Neighborly

(a) Sigmund von Hacklestein heard some of his friends talking about word neighbors when they were discussing the sound of words that children know. Give an example of a word and a “neighboring” word. [1 pt]

(b) Briefly describe to Sigmund what the neighborhood structure idea is, as it concerns learning the sounds of words. [1 pt]

(c) How would the neighborhood structure idea account for the results of the Stager & Werker (1997) experiments with 14 month olds? Make sure to identify which experiment(s) would show the neighborhood effect, and why they would show it. [3 pts]

4) So Emotional

(a) Sigmund von Hacklestein has heard of “emotional affect”, but can’t quite remember what it has to do with the sounds of words. Give Sigmund an example of words that differ only by their emotional affect. [2 pts]

(b) Do children ever distinguish words by their emotional affect? Provide evidence to support your answer. [2 pts]

5) Those Kids and Their Brains

(a) There is some neurological evidence that 14 month olds store phonetic detail for familiar words, and some opposing evidence. Name the study that supports phonetic detail for 14 month olds and the study that weakens the claim. [2 pts]

(b) Why is it possible these two studies generated different results? [2 pts]