

Mark my WORDS! - The effects of social identities on processing of Emotions in Speech.

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Background

- Conflicts between social groups in Israel have persisted for years, lately they are more pronounced.
- When two members speak to each other, two acoustic channels form the main source for emotional judgment: **Semantics (What)** and **Prosody (How)**.
- In general, healthy young adults assign a larger relative weight to prosody over semantics – **Prosodic dominance** (Ben-David et al., 2019)
- Studies have mainly examined how speech and accent affect interpersonal judgments (Dragojevic & Giles, 2016).
- We examine it from the opposite direction! is it possible that the **social identities of the speaker may alter prosodic dominance**?

Procedure and results:

- Study 1 - Social identity manipulation:** participants were presented with a 10-name list. Half of the names were characterized as religious (e.g. Nahman) and the other half as secular (e.g. Amit).
- The participants were asked to choose five names from the list who would become their group for a fictitious upcoming task.
- Measuring Prosodic dominance:** as part of the task, the participants were asked to perform the iT-RES, paradigm testing perception of emotion in spoken language.
- They were assigned to one of two conditions: listening to a chosen group member (in-group) or unchosen group member (out-group).
- In both conditions, the participant listened to the same recordings.
- Study 2** – Same as study one except the names were presented along with quote indicating the member's political view.

Theoretical implications:

- Integrating interpersonal and intergroup research areas.
- Distilling the effect of social identity on emotion perception processes above and beyond the known effect of accent.

Practical implications:

- Illuminating a phenomenon that may produce biases in socially diverse situations (multicultural therapy, negotiation, mediation, everyday encounters)

Stimuli example (•) : "That rude person cut in front of me in line!" (spoken in happy prosody)

		Semantics		
Prosody		Angry	Sad	Happy
	Angry	-		
	Sad		-	
	Happy	•		-

Prosodic rating = "rank how HAPPY the speaker was" (prosodic match)

Lexical rating = "rank how ANGRY the speaker was" (lexical match)

Prosodic Dominance = Prosodics ranking – Semantic ratings

