# On the Relationship between First and Second Language Spontaneous Speech: The Role of Hesitation Phenomena

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#### Introduction

Well, i- i- i- in my own life I'd- I'd break it up in stages, when uh I had a difficult youth. Uh my father wasn't in the house, uh I've written about this, uh there- uh uh you know there were times where uh I've experimented with drugs, and I drank, uh yeah in my teenage years, a-nd wh- what I trace this to is uh a certain selfishness on my part, I- I was so obsessed with me, and you know the- the reasons that I might be dissatisfied, that I- I- w- I couldn't focus on other people. And uh y-you know I think the process for me of growing up was to recognize that it's not about me, it's about ...

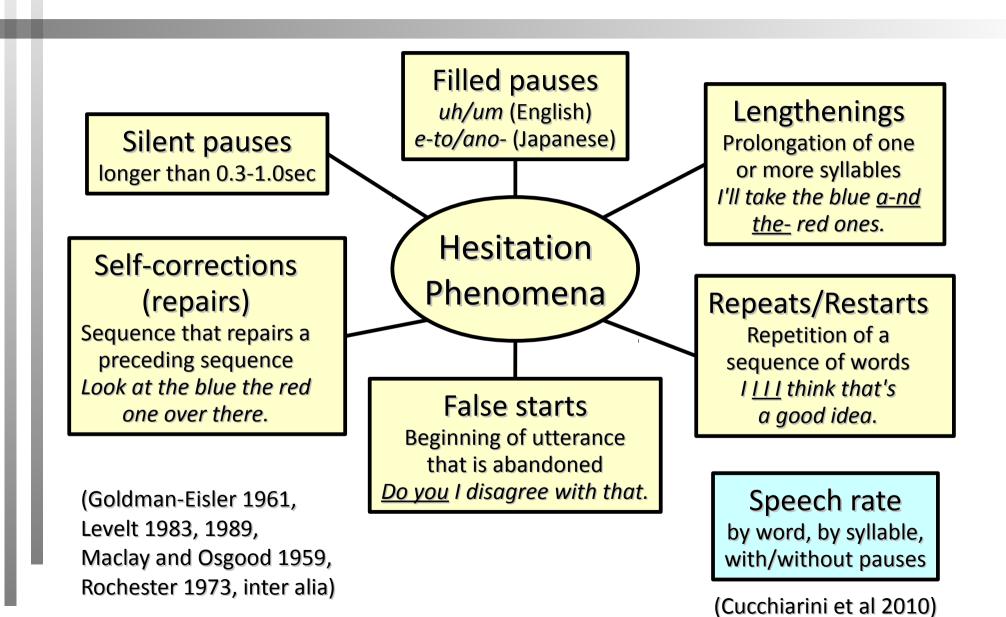
it's about- absolutely, so- so- but- but look, you know, th- the uh wh- when I uh wh- when I find myself um taking the wrong step, I think a lot of the times it's because I'm trying to protect myself, instead of trying to do God's work. And- and- an- and so that I think is- is my own failure

Barack Obama (August, 2008); Saddleback Presidential Forum

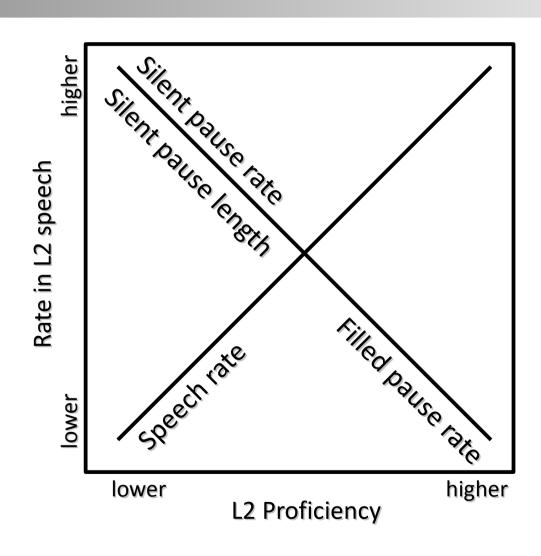
#### Overview

- Hesitation phenomena in speech
  - Overview
  - In L2 speech
- Crosslinguistic Corpus of Hesitation Phenomena
  - Description
  - Results
- Developmental Trajectory
- Accessing the CCHP

## Hesitation phenomena



## Hesitation phenomena in L2 production



(Cucchiarini et al 2010, Kormos and Dénes 2004, Riazantseva 2001, Rieger 2003, Tavakoli 2011, Trofimovich and Baker 2006, 2007, Wu 2008)

## Hesitation phenomena in L2 production

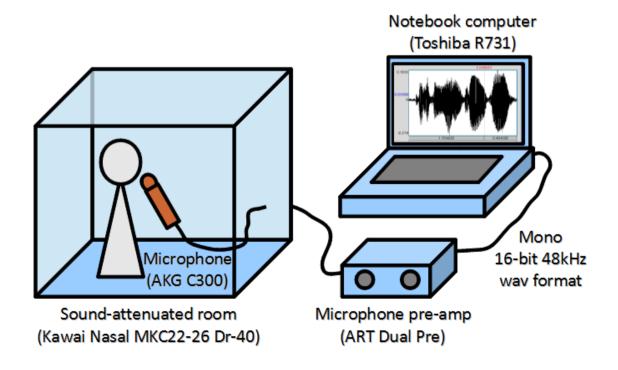
- As a whole, work has been quite comprehensive.
- However, individual works are limited in that many do not take individual variation into account (cf., de Leeuw 2007).
- Gradually, more studies are including L1 observations.
  - Derwing et al (2009) and Cox and Baker-Smemoe (2012) observed that both speech rate and pause rate in L1 and L2 production are correlated.
- The current research is designed to contribute to greater understanding of the relationship between L1 hesitation patterns and L2 hesitation patterns.

## Research questions

- What is the relationship between hesitation patterns in L1 and L2 speech?
- What is the developmental trajectory of the use of hesitation phenomena in L2?

## Crosslinguistic Corpus of Hesitation Phenomena (CCHP)

- Participants: L2 learners of varying proficiency levels
- Elicitation tasks
  - Spontaneous speech: picture description, topic narrative
  - Reading aloud
  - Performed in both L1 and L2



## Crosslinguistic Corpus of Hesitation Phenomena (CCHP)

- Demographic information: age, gender, L2 proficiency (standardized test scores, experience abroad, selfassessment)
- Annotation
  - Transcripts, HP, word & pause intervals
  - Two annotators, one checker

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<UTTERANCE>
<T>in</T>
<T>America</T>
<T FILLED-PAUSE="yes">uh</T>
<T>there's</T>
<T>a</T>
<T FILLED-PAUSE="ves">uh</T>
<T>very</T>
<T>famous</T>
<T FILLED-PAUSE="ves">uh</T>
<T>and</T>
<T>loved</T>
<T FILLED-PAUSE="ves">uh</T>
<T>basketball</T>
<RP>
 < 0>
   <T>c1#</T>
 </0>
 <T FILLED-PAUSE="yes">uh</T>
 <E>
   <T>association</T>
 </E>
</RP>
<T>which</T>
<T>is</T>
<T>called</T>
<T>NBA</T>
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<T>Basketball</T>
<T>Association</T>
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\langle T \ranglethink\langle T \rangle
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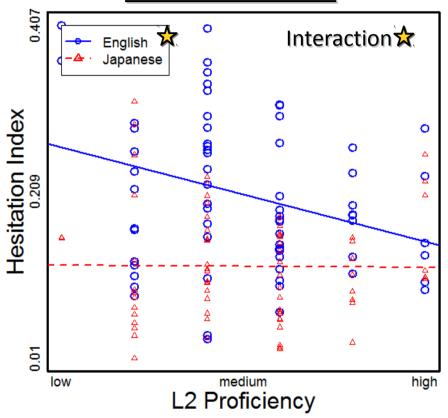
#### **CCHP Results: Basic Statistics**

- Participants: 36 Japanese
   L1 / English L2 speakers
- Full corpus
  - 62,632 words
  - 11 hrs, 31 min
- Spontaneous speech
  - 40,296 words
  - 8 hrs, 43 min
- Read speech
  - 22,336 words
  - 2 hr, 48 min
- Transcriber agreement
  - 91.5%

- 15,837 silent pauses
- 3,516 filled pauses
- 1,689 self-corrections
- 518 repeats

### **CCHP Results: Hesitation Index**

#### **Hesitation Index**

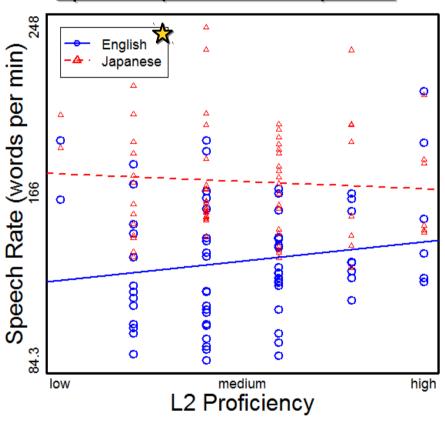


 $He sitation Index = 1 - \frac{Number of essence words}{Number of spoken words}$ 

Where "essence" is what the speaker intended to say.

## **CCHP Results: Speech Rate**

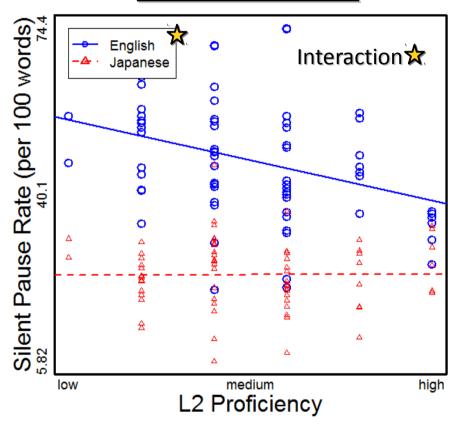
#### Speech (Articulation) Rate



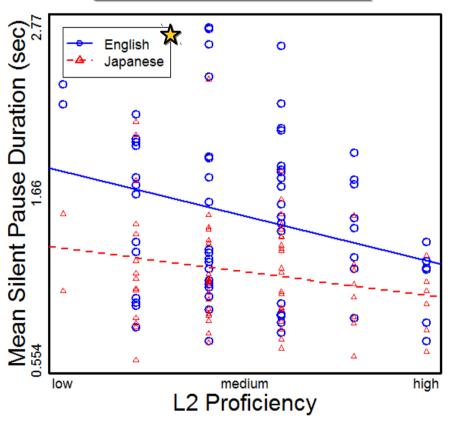
Consistent with Derwing et al (2009) and Cox and Baker-Smemoe (2012)

#### **CCHP Results: Silent Pauses**

#### Silent Pause Rate

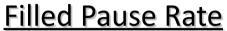


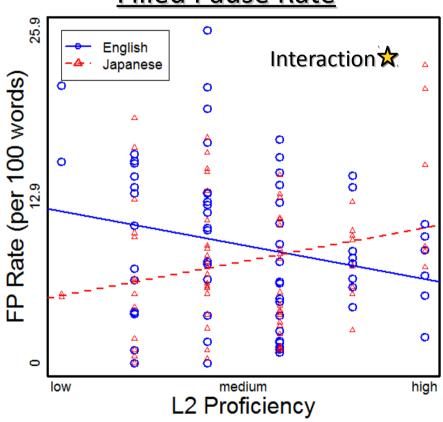
#### **Silent Pause Duration**



Contra Derwing et al (2009) and Cox and Baker-Smemoe (2012)

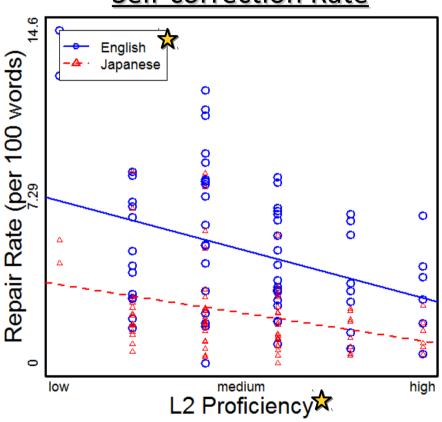
## **CCHP Results: Filled Pauses**





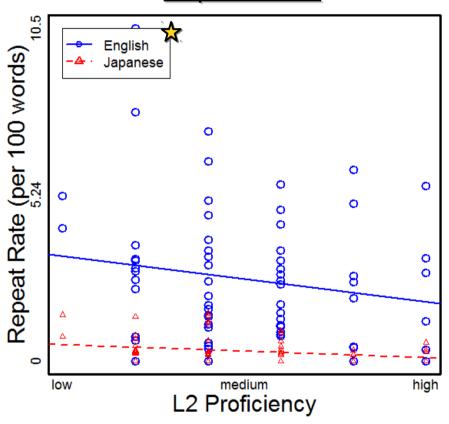
## **CCHP Results: Self-corrections**





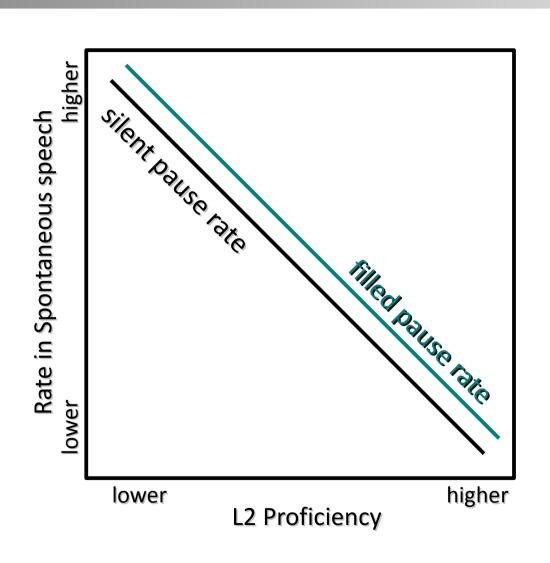
## **CCHP Results: Repeats**

#### Repeat Rate



Repeats are uncommon in Japanese (Fox et al 1996)

## **Developmental Trajectory**



#### To-do:

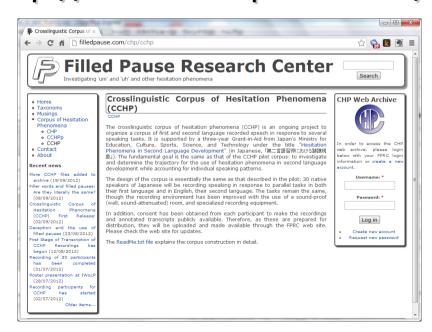
- Filled pause duration
- Lengthenings
- Repair type distribution
- Structural distribution
- Syllable counts

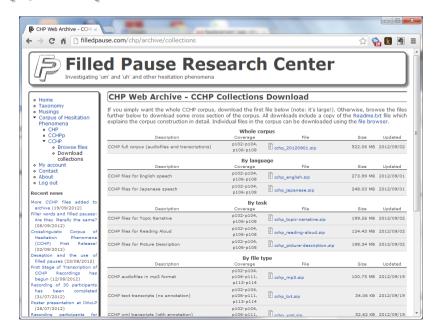
## Summary

- Recent studies of L2 speech performance are taking L1 speech performance more and more into account.
- The Crosslinguistic Corpus of Hesitation Phenomena allows us to account for L1 factors in the study of L2 speech patterns.
- Results show that silent and filled pause features indicate learners' L2 proficiency.
- Results suggest that other L2 hesitation phenomena correlate with those of L1.

## **CCHP Public Corpus**

- Assembling a public version of the Crosslinguistic Corpus of Hesitation Phenomena is ongoing.
- When complete, audio files and annotated transcripts will be available for free download.
- Some files are already available for download: http://www.filledpause.com/chp/cchp





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