

Perception of Coarticulated Speech

Fowler, C.(1981) "Production and perception of coarticulation among stressed and unstressed vowels" JSHR 46, 127ff

Stimuli:

Two pairs of Vowel-Schwa-Vowel sequences

Pair 1

Pair 2

IBEBI ABEBA IBEBI ABEBA

In which pair does the medial schwa sound most similar?

Most likely response is “Pair 1”

The schwas in Pair 2 sound clearly different.

However, in fact they are acoustically *identical*

The original schwa in ABEBA (Pair 2) has been replaced by the schwa from IBEBI.

The schwas in Pair 1 are measurably different, due to the normal effects of coarticulation, but sound very similar because they remain embedded in the appropriate context.

→ **Perceptual Parsing**

