

## Phonological Competition in Children

### Abstract

In adults, it has been shown that the production of word pairs that are not identical but share similar phonemes are more difficult to produce than word pairs that are either identical or more dissimilar (e.g., Sevald & Dell 1994, Goldrick Mooshammer et al., Labphon 2010), e.g. *top cop* is more error-prone and takes more time to initiate than identical (*top top*) or dissimilar sequences (*top sun*). These difficulties show up as longer reaction times (Meyer & Gordon 1985), longer execution times (Sevald & Dell 1994, Munson & Babel 2005) and higher error rates (Butterworth & Whittacker 1980, Sevald & Dell 1994). This has been attributed to competition in planning and executing similar articulatory gestures in sequential order. Competition has stronger effects if the mismatch occurs in the coda than in the onset (see the Sequential Cueing Model by Sevald & Dell 1994). Munson & Babel (2005) found for a word repetition task that the execution times of 4 and 7 year-old children did not exhibit a benefit from identical primes whereas adults did. The study I will present aimed at examining whether children show similar patterns to adults and whether planning time is also affected by manipulations of similarity.