

**Perceptual interference in L2 learning:
Exploring the interface between auditory, phonetic, and phonological processing**

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Infants are born with language-universal perceptual capacities, and they become specialized through development to perceive the sounds used in their native language. Research in this area has most often suggested that this specialization occurs in linguistic categorization (e.g., phonetic categories, phonemes, or words). This talk will present research that suggests that this specialization also occurs at auditory-phonetic levels prior to categorization, and that there are multiple levels that become specialized, with production being relatively independent from perception. The talk will describe studies on the perception of English /r/-/l/ by Japanese and English speakers, and English /w/-/v/ by Hindi and English speakers.