

Investigating the Effect of Juncture on Comprehension among Adult Learners of English in Nigeria

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Abstract : The role of phonology on reading comprehension is long established in the literature. However, the vast majority of studies on the relationship between phonology and reading or comprehension among adults involve investigating the role of intonation, stress, and segmental knowledge on understanding texts. Not much attention is paid to junctural observation and its effect on the interpretation of texts. This study, therefore, presents a preliminary case-study investigation of the effect of juncture on comprehension of texts among adult Nigerian learners of English. Eighty adult learners of English in Nigeria were presented with fifteen seemingly ambiguous sentences to interpret. The sentences were structured in a way that pausing at different points would produce different interpretations. The results reveal that wrong application of pause is capable of affecting comprehension even when other phonological factors such as stress and intonation are observed properly.

Keywords : comprehension, juncture, phonology, reading

Conference Title : ICELLL 2017 : International Conference on English Language, Literature and Linguistics

Conference Location : Singapore, Singapore

Conference Dates : September 11-12, 2017