Summer School: Coping with the complexity in speech production and perception

Its Contribution to the Field

The summer school "Coping with the complexity in speech production and perception" adressed the recent advances in linguistics, psychology, and neuroscience. It aimed at discussing the perplexity in speech production and perception but also the intricacy of working with speech and language in general.

The keynote speakers' presentations provided extended theoretical knowledge on the Task Dynamic Application (TADA), Approaches in Electromagnetic Articulography, the Multimodality in Speech, the Vocal Tract Lab, Outreach in Speech Research and a Tutorial on Bayesian modelling.

Participants gained hands-on experience with SPRAAKLAB. SPRAAKLAB is a mobile laboratory designed to facilitate research in linguistics. More specifically, it facilitates high-quality data collection and conduction of experiments: from acoustic and articulatory data collection to eye-tracking and EEG using portable equipment. During the summer school, the participating researchers visited this mobile lab and got familiar with its equipment. In addition to this, a demonstration, and a personal conduction of a tongue sonograph were offered to those interested.

In the meantime, poster sessions and general discussions were set up, allowing researchers from around the globe to circulate ideas as to how multimodality in speech can be controlled and how the replication crisis in the field can be handled. Along the same line, this summer school allowed participants to brainstorm and get some insight into different projects, dealing with speech or language complexity in various languages such as French, English, Dutch, Italian, Turkish among other.

Our Work

My presentation demonstrated the creation of the first database of Greek idioms assessed for their internal semantic characteristics. More concretely, it provided detailed explanations regarding the methodological design followed and how the final database was formed. In the presentation, I elaborated on how large databases can assist in making future studies replicable and results generalisable. Studies dealing with idiom production or comprehension can retrieve stimuli from databases available in the language of interest and therefore, outcomes can be more easily comparable, facilitating research in the field of psycho/neurolinguistics.

The presentation of the first idiom database in Greek was received with enthusiasm. I had the opportunity to get some feedback as far as the statistical analysis of the data is concerned. In addition, discussions around the research design provided me with a better insight into what parameters, apart from the idiom-internal semantic characteristics, could be added to the existing database in a future attempt to inform it.

Take-home Message

The summer school "Coping with the complexity in speech production and perception" allowed participants to gain new perspectives on how problematic areas in the field of linguistics can be addressed as well as on how complexity manifests itself in different languages through different methodological designs and projects. Finally, it was an excellent way to socialise and exchange ideas and recommendations in a rather fostering environment which promoted openness and intercultural communication.