

Department of Linguistics
University of Colorado - Boulder

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Education

- **University of Michigan** Ann Arbor, MI
Ph.D. May, 2007
Dissertation title:
Context Effects in Spoken Word Recognition of English and German by Native and Non-native Listeners
Dissertation committee:
 - José Benkí (co-chair, Michigan State University, Communicative Sciences and Disorders)
 - Pam Beddor (co-chair, Linguistics)
 - Andries Coetzee (member, Linguistics)
 - Robert Kyes (member, German)
- **Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute** Michigan State University
enrolled student 6/03–8/03
- **Grinnell College** Grinnell, IA
B.A. in German with honors December, 2000
- **Ludwig-Maximilian-University** Munich, Germany
Semester Abroad Spring, 1999

Research Interests

My research primarily focuses on German and English in the following areas:

- Phonetics and Phonology
- Speech perception
- Spoken word recognition
- Lexical Access
- Second Language Acquisition
- Dialectology and Sociolinguistics

In all my research areas, I take a data-driven approach, and incorporate experimental- corpus- and computational-based methods to data analysis.

Publications

- 2009 — Robert Albert Felty, Adam Buchwald, and David B. Pisoni. Adaptation to frozen babble in spoken word recognition. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 125 (3), EL93–EL97.
- 2008 — Lexical context effects on spoken word recognition by native and non-native listeners. (in preparation)
- 2008 — Effects of lexical status and morphology in spoken word recognition of English and German words and nonwords. (under review)
- 2007 — Confusion patterns and response bias in spoken word recognition of German disyllabic words and nonwords, in *Proceedings of the 16th International Congress of the Phonetic Sciences*, 1957–1960.
- 2004 — The Ongoing (Un)merging of Stops in the Swabian Dialect of Isny im Allgäu (to be submitted to the *Journal of Germanic Linguistics*)

Conference Presentations

- 2008 — Robert Felty, Adam Buchwald, and David B. Pisoni. *Constructing neighborhood density from spoken word recognition errors*. Presented at the 6th Conference on the Mental Lexicon, Banff, Alberta, October 7th–10th

- 2008 — Robert Felty, Adam Buchwald, and David B. Pisoni. *Lexical analysis of spoken word recognition errors*. Poster presented at Acoustics '08, Paris, France, June 29th–July 4th
- 2008 — Adam Buchwald, Robert Felty, and David B. Pisoni. *Neighbors as competitors: Phonological analysis of spoken word recognition errors*. Poster to be presented at Acoustics '08, Paris, France, June 29th–July 4th
- 2007 — Robert Felty, Adam Buchwald, David B. Pisoni, and Melissa Troyer. *Constructing neighborhood density through recognition errors*. Poster presented at the 13th annual , Columbus, Ohio, October 26–28.
- 2007 — Robert Felty. *Confusion patterns and response bias in spoken word recognition of German disyllabic words and nonwords*. Poster presented at the 16th International Congress of the Phonetic Sciences, Saarbrücken, Germany, August 6–10.
- 2007 — Robert Felty. *Context Effects in recognition of German disyllabic words and nonwords by native and non-native listeners*. Poster presented at the 153rd meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Salt Lake City, Utah, June 3–8.
- 2006 — Robert Felty and José Benkí. *Context Effects in recognition of English disyllabic CVCCVC words and nonwords by native and non-native listeners*. Poster presented at the 4th joint meeting of the Acoustical Society of America and the Acoustical Society of Japan, Honolulu, Hawaii, Nov. 29 - Dec. 2.
- 2006 — Robert Felty and José Benkí. *Morphological Decomposition Revisited: Evidence from English and German speech-in-noise tasks*. Poster presented at the 5th International Conference on the Mental Lexicon, Montreal, Quebec, Oct. 10 - 12.
- 2006 — José Benkí and Robert Felty. *Relative contributions of initial and final similarity to neighborhood density effects on English spoken word recognition*. Poster presented at the 5th International Conference on the Mental Lexicon, Montreal, Quebec, Oct. 10 - 12.
- 2005 — Robert Felty and José Benkí. *Asymmetries in patterns of confusion of American English vowels*. 11th Midcontinental Workshop on Phonology. University of Michigan Abstract
- 2005 — José Benkí and Robert Felty. *Recognition of English phonemes in noise*. Poster presented at the 149th meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Vancouver, British Columbia, May 15 - 20. 2568.
- 2005 — *The Ongoing (Un)merger of stops in the Swabian dialect of Isny im Allgäu*. 11th Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference. University of California - Davis.
- 2004 — *Phonetics in the German Classroom: Teaching Umlaut*. 10th Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference. University of Michigan.
- 2003 — *Perception and Production of front rounded vowels by English-speaking learners of German*. 25th Second Language Research Forum. University of Arizona.
- 2003 — *The relationship between regional identity and regional variety: Language Attitudes in Munich and Berlin*. 9th Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference. University of Buffalo.

Invited talks and guest lectures

- 2007 — *Cross-linguistic differences in lexical access and spoken word recognition*. Talk given at University of Michigan colloquium series, March 9th, Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2007 — *Using linguistic databases for psycholinguistic, phonetic, and phonological research words*. Guest lecture for Prof. Andries Coetzee's seminar on Phonology, February 1st, Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2006 — *Context Effects in Spoken Word Recognition of English CVCCVC words and nonsense words*. Talk given at University of Konstanz Linguistics department colloquium series, May 8th, Konstanz, Germany.

Reviews

- Manfred Pienemann. 2006. Cross-Linguistic Aspects of Processability Theory. Review for *Linguist List*, , Aug. 10, 2006

- Charles Russ. 2002. Die Mundart von Bosco Gurin: Eine synchronische und diachronische Untersuchung. (Book notice) in *Language* 82:220–221. 2006.
- Daniela Berroth. 2001. Altersbedingter Mundartgebrauch: Sprachwandel und Kontinuität in einem mittelschwäbischen Dialekt. (Book notice) in *Language* 80:614. 2004.
- Volkmar Engerer. 2000. The Loss of German in Upper Silesia after 1945. (Book notice) in *Language* 80:620. 2004.

Courses Taught

University of Colorado - Boulder

- 2009 Fall term — Linguistics 5200. Introduction of Computational Corpus Linguistics

Indiana University

- 2008 Fall term — Linguistics 555. Programming for computational linguists (python)

University of Michigan

- 2006 Summer term — Linguistics 211. Introduction to Language.
- 2005 Summer term — German 230. Third/Fourth semester intermediate course.
- 2003 Fall term — German 231. Third semester intermediate course.
- 2002 Spring term — German 102. Second semester introductory course.
- 2002 Winter term — German 101. First semester introductory course.

Research

- 2006 — Ann Arbor, MI and Konstanz, Germany — collected data from psycholinguistic experiments in English and German for the dissertation
- 2004–2005 — Research Assistant for Dr. José Benkí on the project “Measuring context effects in spoken word recognition”.
- 2003 — Fieldwork in Isny im Allgäu, Germany — conducted and recorded sociolinguistic interviews.

Awards/Grants

- 2007 — NIH post-doctoral traineeship
- 2005 — Candidacy Fellowship (awarded by the Linguistics department)
- 2003 — Rackham Graduate School discretionary fund grant for research expenses.
- 2001 — Regents Fellowship from the University of Michigan.
- 2001 — Phi Beta Kappa Member.
- 2001 — German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) short-term fellowship (declined).
- 1997–2000 — Trustee Merit scholarship from Grinnell College.

Service

- 2004–2007 — Linguistics department web committee member.
- 2005 — Organizing committee member and webmaster for the 11th
- 2004–2006 — secretary and webmaster.
- 2004 — Organizing committee for the 10th
- 2003–2004 — Linguistics department social committee member.
- 2002–2003 — Organized weekly German conversation table for undergraduate German students. 1/02–5/03.

Professional Societies

- Society for Germanic Linguistics
- Linguistic Society of America
- American Association of Teachers of German
- Acoustical Society of America

Languages

- Fluent in: English, German.
- Reading knowledge of: Old English, Middle English, Old Norse, Gothic, Middle High German, Old Saxon, Classical Latin.

Technical Skills

- Competent in Macintosh, UNIX/Linux, and Windows operating systems
- Adept with acoustic analysis of speech signals with Praat
- Proficient in web development technologies, including (x)html, css, javascript, AJAX, apache, mysql, PHP, XML, and various CMS/Wiki/bloggging systems
- Fluent in Perl, Python, Matlab, and UNIX shell scripting
- 3+ years experience maintaining LAMP server hosting several different websites
- Comfortable with source content management (Subversion, git)
- Experience with a variety of statistical analysis methods, including ANOVA, multiple regression, monte-carlo, MDS, PCA, and bootstrapping, using SPSS, Matlab, and R