Production and Perception of Prosody in L2 Speech

Tuesday and Thursday 12:30 – 13:45
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This class will study prosody (primarily intonation and rhythm) with an emphasis on its role in the speech of non-native (L2) language users. The first part of the semester will introduce approaches to analyzing prosody, especially in English. We will then read research on L2 speakers’ production of prosody, and L2 listeners’ perception of prosody, as well as L1 listeners’ perception of prosody as produced by L2 speakers. A variety of L1-L2 language combinations will be studied. In addition to reading and class discussion, students will do practical exercises in intonational analysis, and design and report on small research projects.

Sample L1 speaker

‘Natasha didn’t attach her cat Pacha who escaped.’

Less successful L2 speaker