fants declined (M = 59.9%). Second, performance varied significantly as a function of the direction of stimulus change ( /b/ to /p/ easier than the reverse), regardless of age or language experience. Discussion will focus on separating effects attributable to linguistic and psychoacoustic factors. [Work supported by NIH.]

3aSCb14. Exploitation of stress information in spoken-word recognition in Dutch. Wilma van Donselaar and Anne Cutler (MPI for Psycholinguistics, P.O. Box 310, 6500 AH Nijmegen, The Netherlands)

A fragment-priming experiment addressed the question of how stress information is exploited in the process of recognizing spoken Dutch words. Materials were 20 pairs of Dutch words such as *octopus*/oktober*, with two initial syllables which were segmentally identical but different in stress; both begin okto- (N.B.: in neither case is their vowel reduction, in Dutch), but *octopus* is stressed on the first syllable, oktObEr on the second.

Exploiting the known effect that visual lexical decisions are made more rapidly if subjects have just heard the word, or part of it, we compared the lexical decision response times of 56 native speakers of Dutch to the target words (e.g., OKTOBER), presented visually immediately following a spoken presentation of a neutral sentence ending with a partial word. This partial word had (a) a correctly stressed beginning (e.g., okTO-), (b) an incorrectly stressed beginning (e.g., OKto-), or (c) a control beginning (e.g., euko-). Responses were significantly faster (than the control condition) only after correctly stressed primes; that is, okTO- primed OCTopus but not oktObEr, okTO- primed oktObEr but not OCTopus. Thus Dutch listeners can exploit stress information effectively at a relatively early stage in the spoken presentation of a word.

3aSCb15. An examination of word–initial-stop closure interval in English, Spanish, and Spanish–English bilinguals. Kerry P. Green (Dept. of Psych., Univ. of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721, kgreen@u.arizona.edu), Mary L. Zampini, and Joel Magloire (Univ. of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721)

This study investigated the effect of the linguistic experience on the duration of the preceding closure interval (CI) on word–initial-stop consonants. Native speakers of English (NE), Spanish (NS), and Spanish–English bilinguals produced sentences containing words beginning with either a voiced or a voiceless stop consonant. As is typical for word–initial stops in English, no difference in the CI occurred between voiced and voiceless consonants for the NE speakers. The NS speakers produced the voiceless stops with CIs similar to the NE voiced stops (consistent with the fact that both are classified phonetically as short-lag stops). The voiced stops, however, had significantly shorter CIs. Like the NE speakers, the bilinguals in the English mode produced voiceless and voiceless stops with equal CIs. In the Spanish mode, the bilinguals maintained a distinction in CI between voiced and voiceless stops, although the CIs were significantly different from their NS counterparts. The results suggest that Spanish speakers use CI to help distinguish the voicing characteristics of stops in word–initial position and that bilinguals reweigh different voicing cues as a function of the language mode.

3aSCb16. The effect of masked syllable primes on word and picture naming. Niels O. Schiller (Max Planck Inst. for Psycholinguist., NL-6500 AH Nijmegen, The Netherlands)

The role of the syllable in Dutch speech production is investigated. Four experiments tested the effect of masked syllable primes on the naming latencies of words and pictures. Target words were bisyllabic Dutch nouns that either had clear syllable boundaries and began with a CV syllable (e.g., fa.kiir “id.”) or a CVC syllable (e.g., fa.koর “factor”), or their syllable boundary was ambiguous, in which case they began with a CV [C] syllable (e.g., fa[k]kiir “torch”). In the syllable match condition, targets were preceded by syllable primes that were identical to the first syllable. In the syllable mismatch condition, the syllable prime was one segment shorter or longer than the target word’s first syllable. A neutral condition was designed to determine the direction of the priming effects (facilitation or inhibition). All related primes facilitated the naming of the targets significantly, but the priming effect was independent of the syllabic structure of prime and target. It is concluded that the syllable does not play a functional role in the process of phonological encoding in Dutch. Since the size of the facilitation effect increased with increasing overlap between prime and target, the priming effect is accounted for by a segmental overlap hypothesis.

3aSCb17. Abstract withdrawn

3aSCb18. A cross-linguistic study of diphthongs in spoken word processing in Japanese and English. Kiyoko Yoneyama (Dept. of Linguist., Ohio State Univ., 1712 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43210, yoneyama@ling.ohio-state.edu)

Utilizing a phoneme-monitoring task, the current study investigates the sensitivity to moraic structure in English and Japanese diphthongs by three groups of language users: monolingual Japanese listeners, monolingual English listeners, and semibilingual Japanese speakers of English. Experiment 1 focused on monolingual Japanese listeners and found that they did not show a moraic effect in English materials, although they did not show that in Japanese materials. Experiment 2 focused on monolingual English listeners and found that they were not sensitive to moraic structure in either English or Japanese, and seemed to listen to both English and Japanese in the same listening strategy. Experiment 3 focused semibilingual Japanese speakers of English and found that they showed a moraic effect in Japanese materials while they did not in English materials. Collectively, findings in experiments 1 and 3 suggest that Japanese natives are generally sensitive to moraic structure. Also, those in experiment 1 and 2 suggest that sensitivity to moraic structure is language specific. Finally, those in experiment 3 suggest that extensive second-language experience allows one to readjust this tuning for each language spoken, such that a listener’s speech segmentation strategy can differ by language.

3aSCb19. Lexical influences on the McGurk effect. Lawrence Brancatio (Haskins Labs., 270 Crown St., New Haven, CT 06511 and Univ. of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269, lab93006@uconnvm.uconn.edu)

Much research has been devoted to the study of whether lexical knowledge affects lower-level phonetic processing. For example, in the Ganong effect (Ganong, JEP:HPP, 6, 110–125), the lexical status of the end points of a /b/-/p/ voicing continuum affects the point at which a shift from /b/ to /p/ responses is made (e.g., more /b/ responses in a /bif/-/pif/ continuum than in a /bis/-/pis/ one). This study addresses whether lexical effects influence the perception of discrepant audiovisual stimuli (the McGurk effect). Pairs of words and nonwords were constructed that differed only in the place of articulation of the initial phoneme; in each pair either both members were words, only one was a word, or neither was a word. The stimuli were presented audiovisually, with the audio from one pair member and the video from the other; subjects identified the initial phoneme. Analyses of a proportion of video responses (McGurk responses) indicated significant effects of the lexical status of the auditorily-presented token and of the visually-presented token: the McGurk effect was stronger when the video token was a word, and weaker when the audio token was a word. Implications of these findings will be discussed.