



Guest Lecture

Probing Comprehensibility

The focus of much recent research into second language pronunciation has been comprehensibility, a measure of the extent to which listeners understand what is being said. Studies have shown that a range of listeners—most often “expert” and naïve native speakers—are able to understand foreign-accented speech quite well and that they generally show high levels of agreement regarding which speech samples they understand easily and which are more difficult to understand. This presentation focuses on recent studies that examine a range of methodological and listener variables in the ratings of second language German speech. In addition I will present the results of a study examining the extent to which comprehensibility judgments of second language English speech can be manipulated. The results have important real-world implications, especially in terms of second language speech assessment.

Prof. Mary Grantham O’Brien
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Date: 08.06.2017
Place: VMP 6, Raum 1269
Time: 16-18 Uhr

**Institut für Anglistik und
Amerikanistik**