Introduction

• Visual information (like orthography) can facilitate L2 pronunciation.
• This is particularly true for languages with transparent orthographies, more than those with opaque ones (Erdener & Burnham, 2005).
• Non-local orthographic information is less useful to learners, and can lead learners to make perceptual and pronunciation errors, even when the orthography of their L1 is opaque (Darcy, 2016).
• We examined these issues in Irish, which includes many opaque orthographic conventions, among native and non-native speakers.
  – Do L2 Irish speakers make more spelling-based errors?
  – Do L1 Irish speakers show interference from English orthography?

Irish Orthography

(Doyle, 2001)

• Notable deep orthographic conventions include consonant mutations and multiple vowel functions.
• Considerable geographic variation.

Consonant Mutations & -h

(1) a. cat [kat] ‘cat’
   b. chat [kát] ‘chat’
   c. gcat [gæt] ‘cat’
(2) a. caitheann [kæθæn] ‘must’
   b. domhan [daθʊn] ‘world’

Broad vs. Slender

(3) a. bó [b oyː] ‘cow’
   b. beó [b oyː] ‘alive’
   c. ceol [k əl̪] ‘music’

Vowel Length & Diphthongs

(4) a. saor [sər] ‘free’
   b. rua [ruə] ‘red’
   c. báid [b aid] ‘boat’
(5) a. coill [k əyl̪] ‘wood’
   b. fóin [ fyːn] ‘tune’

Results

Typical errors

(6) shéid ‘blew’
   a. [heɪd] (Joseph, Moycullen, L1)
   b. [ʃɛːd] (Emily, Bray, L2)

(7) dtaoibh ‘about’
   a. [diːv] (Jimmy, Moycullen, L1)
   b. [tɛɾv] (Emma, Maynooth, L2)

(8) threítse ‘stronger’
   a. [hʌɾʃə] (Joe, Omagh, L2)
   b. [hʌɾʃə] (Paul, Kanturk, L2)

• L2 > L1 errors, and more errors consistent with English spelling.
• L1 are bilingual in English, so some interference is not surprising.
• Stronger orthography–phonology mappings, or cognitive control?

Irish L2 pronunciation and the effects of orthography.

Evan D. Bradley, Hope E. Schmid, & Jacqueline Brown

The Pennsylvania State University, Brandywine | Media, PA, USA

References


Go raibh céad míle maith agat | Diolch yn fawr iawn