

Listener-oriented speech modulation in dysarthria
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The aim of this investigation was to assess the impact of the listener-context on speech produced by individuals with dysarthria. The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF; WHO, 2001) framework for describing disability includes contextual (environmental, personal) factors that serve as facilitators or barriers to communication and participation. One category of environmental factors, listener attributes, has been shown to impact speech clarity and prosodic modulation in healthy speakers (Cooke, King, Garnier, & Aubanel, 2014). For instance, clear speech may be elicited when speaking to a young child (e.g., child-directed speech; Burnham, Kitamura, Vollmer-Conna, 2002), hearing impaired individual (Ferguson & Kewley-Port, 2002), or foreign language speaker (Ferguson & Kewley-Port, 2007). To evaluate the impact of listener-oriented factors on speakers with dysarthria, audio recordings of adult and child participants with and without dysarthria were collected across contexts. Offline acoustic analyses were conducted to evaluate segmental and prosodic changes, including vowel space area, speech rate, F0 and intensity ranges. Preliminary results indicate the feasibility of eliciting speech modulation across listener contexts for speakers with and without dysarthria. These findings are discussed in relation to the importance of considering speaking context in communication intervention with speakers with dysarthria.