

Naïve and Familiar Listeners' Perceptions of Monologues
Produced by Individuals with Parkinson Disease and
Age-and-Gender Matched Healthy Speakers
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Prior studies have investigated perceptions of speakers with Parkinson disease (PD) by different listener groups (i.e., family members and naïve listeners) and findings have been mixed. The current study examined perceptions of monologues by naïve and familiar listeners. Speakers included five individuals with PD and five age-and-gender matched neurologically healthy speakers (HS). Listeners included 30 naïve and 23 familiar listeners. All listeners heard recorded monologues and completed perceptual ratings for each speaker on a visual analog scale for six speech variables (pitch, pitch variability, loudness, rate, pauses, and understandability). Data collection is ongoing and linear regression results (based on current data) indicated no significant interaction between the speaker (PD vs. HS) and listener group (naïve vs. familiar; $p > .05$). Separate analysis of the two listener groups (naïve vs. familiar) alone indicated significant effects only for speech rate ($p = .006$) and pauses ($p = .001$). Preliminary findings suggest that familiar listeners perceived significantly more pauses and increased speech rate compared to naïve listeners. Findings from the study can be helpful in determining factors used by naïve and familiar listeners for perceiving speakers with and without PD and subsequently facilitate in early diagnosis and development of family-oriented service delivery for individuals with PD.