Natural speech features

What to take into account when speaking spontaneously

Maria del Mar Suárez Vilagran – 2011

Expressió oral i escrita en anglès
Comunicació audiovisual
Oral speech features

- Thinking aloud
- Pauses
- Repetitions
- Use of fillers
- False starts
- Affective (to do with feeling) features – expression of emotion, doubt, confidence
- Role of intonation in stating, implying, reinforcing
- Types of utterance (statement, question, command, exclamation)
Errors

Successful speech production is a constant battle against error, and those errors can pop up anywhere.

- The phrases we then use to interrupt and correct ourselves (phrases such as "sorry", "I mean", "let me put that another way", etc.) are known generically as "editing expressions".
Hesitation devices

- Pausing is a natural and necessary part of the production of spontaneous speech
- Filled vs unfilled pauses + planning time
- Not a great difference between native and some non-native speakers in hesitation devices with respect to length, frequency and nature of planning time

- Taken from: Lorna Wedge THE NATURE OF PAUSES (FILLED AND UNFILLED) IN THE SPEECH OF NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE (SPANISH AND JAPANESE) SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH
  [Link](http://www.google.es/url?sa=t&source=web&cd=7&ved=0CFEQFjAG&url=http%3A%2F%2Fintranet.bpc.ac.uk%2Fresearchpapers%2FLorna_Wedge.doc&ei=1laTTdmVDoKDhQeFhO2eDw&usg=AFQjCNFWERrOYRWZ2KYpheJwtDU-Xgo1dg&cad=rja)
Feedback

• Levelt’s (1989) types of feedback
  • Am I saying what I meant to say?
  • Is this the way I meant to say it?
  • Is what I am saying socially appropriate? (see slide 1)
  • Am I selecting the right words?
  • Am I using the right syntax and morphology?
  • Am I making any phonological errors?
  • Is my articulation at the right speed and pitch?