The difficulty of second dialect acquisition

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(1) Is second dialect acquisition (SDA) harder than second language acquisition (SLA)?
   a. Native-like SLA is possible with age of acquisition (AoA) of 14 and 21. But native-like SDA does not seem possible for AoA over 13 (135).
   b. The starting point of SDA is closer to the target (137), affecting goals and motivation (138).
   
   ![Diagram](image1)

   c. Phonology seems hardest in both SDA and SLA (137).
      » Phonology is also a ‘stable domain’ in language shift (Van Coetsem 1995).

(2) Relevant hypotheses on similarity in SLA
   a. Noticing hypothesis (139) — but Japanese L1 speakers can produce English /l-r/ contrast better than they can perceive it (Sheldon & Strange 1982)
   b. Similarity facilitates transfer from L1 to L2 (140)
      » Contrastive Analysis Hypothesis (CAH)
      » Equivalence (a.k.a. transfer to somewhere: Andersen 1983)
      » Typological similarity (or perception of similarity)
   c. Similar categories are hard to distinguish, e.g. AusEng ‘A’ [æɪ], AmEng ‘I’ [aɪ] (141ff)
      » False friends in morphosyntax and lexicon (143ff)
      » Child bilinguals distinguish similar categories by forcing them apart (Flege et al. 2003)
         – Flege’s Speech Learning Model (SLM) — It’s hard to treat an L2 vowel as a new category if it’s too similar to an L1 vowel, e.g. French /y/ vs. /u/ (141)
         – Best’s Perceptual Assimilation Model (PAM) — A non-native sound can be perceived as a good/bad fit for L1 categories, or non-speech (142–3)

(3) Reactions to D2 speech
   a. Offence/insult, disbelief, resentment, revulsion, ridicule (146ff)
      i. Implies listener’s inability to comprehend standard dialect
      ii. Difficult for talker to avoid caricature
      iii. Belief that there is one ‘true self’ tied to language, hence SDA is ‘phony’ or ‘pretentious’
      iv. Why use D2 if you can already be understood in your D1?
      v. Property metaphor: identity theft (152ff)
   b. Acceptance in special cases
      i. When D1 is non-standard (147) ii. Bidialectalism alongside dual identity (151)
      iii. Humorous use of D2 (147), cf. Benign Violation Theory (e.g. McGraw & Warren 2010)
(4) Relevance to sound change

- Koines display mixture, intermediate forms and simplification due to SDA
  - Transmission of New York City short-\textit{a} pattern to New Jersey, Albany, Cincinnati and New Jersey (154ff, citing Labov 2007)

References


What I’d like to read next

  ⇒ A dense review article.

  ⇒ Uses phylogenetics.

  ⇒ Classic paper summing up two sides in the loanword phonetics/phonology wars.

  ⇒ Not urgent.