

Reference corpus of Dutch drug users I: MDMA / Ecstasy

Vica Papp¹, Maartje Schreuder², Eef Theunissen³, and Jan Ramaekers³

¹Linguistics Department, Rice University, Houston, US & NZILBB, Christchurch, NZ.

viktoria.papp@canterbury.ac.nz

²Department of Psychology, University of Maastricht, Maastricht, The Netherlands

maartje.schreuder@maastrichtuniversity.nl

³Department of Psychopharmacology & Neuropsychology, University of Maastricht, Maastricht, The Netherlands

{e.theunissen|j.ramaekers}@maastrichtuniversity.nl

The past few years have seen an emergence of large-scale phonetic studies into regional variation in order to create reference databases for population statistic purposes. At the same time, the number of crimes committed under the influence of drugs is also on the rise. This talk summarizes our ongoing efforts to create the first sub-corpus in our drug reference corpus. We introduce the structure of the database being built, and an overview of the available data of MDMA (ecstasy) influenced speech of Dutch speakers.

As recommended by Morrison et al. (in press), we are collecting 4 non-contemporaneous recordings of each speaker, each session is recorded both in studio quality and through a mobile phone line, and within each recording session we are collecting recordings of different speaking styles. Because we are working within a clinical research design, the data collection is conducted according to a placebo controlled, four-way crossover study (see Table 1). The four-way treatments are a) the linguistically neutral Alzheimer's medication *Memantine* or placebo combined with b) MDMA or placebo. All subjects receive all drug combinations across the 4 treatment periods (including the placebo-placebo session to establish baseline values), with a one week wash-out period between consecutive treatments. Subjects are 16 recreational MDMA users.

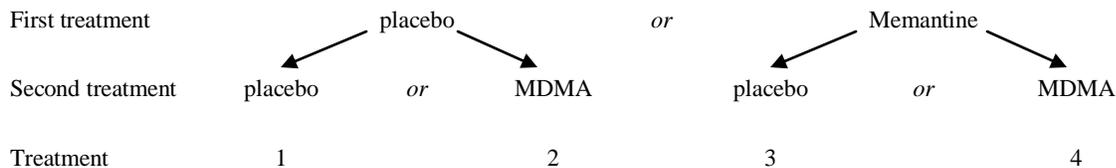


Table 1. The four-way crossover study design.

Besides our methodology, our talk discusses our research objectives following the completion of the MDMA sub-corpus: a) We wish to establish measurable and perceptual differences between MDMA-influenced and non-intoxicated speech, as expressed by within- and between-speaker differences, b) Situate the acoustic correlates of MDMA use in the context of known effects of other intoxicants, such as heroin and alcohol, and c) Make the corpus available to IAFPA members.

Finally, the research team's future work to include other drugs administered individually, as well as combinations of drugs, is outlined.

References

Morrison, G.S., Rose, P., & Zhang, C. (in press). Protocol for the collection of databases of recordings for forensic-voice-comparison research and practice.