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*Constraints on immediate memory for prosody: Evidence of a correspondence with the prosodic organization of speech*

**Abstract**

This study investigates the correspondence between memory of stress rhythms in the context of a serial recall task and the organization of stress patterns in meaningful utterances. French speakers’ (*n* = 40) reproduction of stress patterns in recalling series of syllables with stress groups of differing size shows a floor effect for groups that exceed four syllables. A second experiment where the Ss (*n* = 39) produced utterances with phrases of differing length indicates a strong tendency to insert stress marks in phrases that exceed four syllables. Taken together, the findings provide an initial demonstration that memory for prosodic patterns can be an organizational factor of prosody in speech.