

Quotation marks are expressed in spoken language

Marcel Schlechtweg and Holden Härtl

University of Kassel, Germany

Name-informing constructions (NaInfC) involving predicates like *call* as in *Blood poisoning is also called "sepsis"* are instances of pure quotation, i.e., a meta-linguistic device used to point to linguistic shapes, see, e.g., Cappelen & Lepore (1997). NaInfC inform the addressee about the conventionalized name of a lexical concept, e.g., the name *sepsis*, as opposed to *The doctor diagnosed a sepsis*, where *sepsis* is used denotatively (DenoC). While the semantic and pragmatic properties of (pure) quotation are well explored, its phonetic realization is widely understudied, with only few studies typically examining the acoustic profiles of reported speech, see, e.g., Bertrand, & Espesser (2002); Jansen, Gregory, & Brenier (2001); Klewitz, & Couper-Kuhlen (1999); Oliveira, & Cuhna (2004).

Our paper aims at investigating (i) whether quotation in general is reflected acoustically and (ii) whether the articulator is sensitive to name-informing quotation. For this purpose, we compared the acoustic parameters of NaInfC (see 1a/b) versus DenoC (see 1c/d) and of non-quoted (see 1a/c) versus quoted (see 1b/d) nouns.

In a production study, sixteen native speakers of German were recorded while reading eight German monomorphemic, disyllabic, and initially stressed nouns of low frequency (*Kaper* 'caper', *Pappel* 'poplar', *Kutte* 'robe', *Kippa* 'kippah', *Koppel* 'paddock', *Kuppe* 'tip/peak', *Pita* 'pita', *Pauke* 'timpani') embedded in the four conditions represented in (1). The stressed/initial syllable, i.e., the target syllable, of all nouns was open and composed of a voiceless plosive (= target plosive) as well as a vowel (= target vowel). The sentences of the four conditions were identical, the only differences being the absence/presence of quotation marks and the presence/absence of a name-informing adjective that preceded the noun in focus. The two adjectives, i.e., the name-informing *sogenannte* ('so-called') and the non-name-informing *wohlbekannte* ('well-known') had the same number of morphemes and syllables, and the same stress pattern. Further, the four segments immediately preceding the target syllable of the noun were identical between the two adjectives (see 1). Each subject read all of the thirty-two experimental cases (eight items x four conditions per item) as well as sixty-four filler cases. The order of the four conditions was counterbalanced using a Latin Square Design. Each participant was exposed to a different order. Twenty-three other sentences appeared between an item in one condition and the same item in another condition.

The data was analyzed with Praat and several dependent variables were considered: (A) duration of target syllable, (B) duration of target plosive, (C) duration of constriction of this plosive, (D) VOT of this plosive, (E) duration of target vowel, (F) maximum intensity of this vowel, and (G) maximum F0 of this vowel. Repeated-measures ANOVAs by subject and by item were performed, including the fixed factors QUOTATION MARKS (yes/no) and NAME-INFORMING ADJECTIVE (yes/no), their interaction as well as the random factors SUBJECT and ITEM. The two fixed/independent variables were within-subject/item factors.

Quoted nouns (see 1b/d) were pronounced with significantly longer (A), (B), (C), (D) and a significantly higher (G) than non-quoted nouns (see 1a/c). In addition, NaInfC (see 1a/b) showed a significantly longer (B) than DenoC (see 1c/d).¹ Based on the two main effects, we argue that NaInfC are articulated differently than DenoC and, crucially, that the presence/absence of quotation marks has an influence on the acoustic realization of an item. To conclude, we will discuss the implications of our results for theories of quotation as well as the interface between semantics, pragmatics, and phonetics.

¹ There was no significant interaction.

- (1) a. *Viele Mönche tragen die sogenannte Kutte täglich von morgens bis abends.*
'Many monks wear the **so-called robe** everyday from morning to night.'
- b. *Viele Mönche tragen die sogenannte „Kutte“ täglich von morgens bis abends.*
'Many monks wear the **so-called “robe”** everyday from morning to night.'
- c. *Viele Mönche tragen die wohlbekannte Kutte täglich von morgens bis abends.*
'Many monks wear the **well-known robe** everyday from morning to night.'
- d. *Viele Mönche tragen die wohlbekannte „Kutte“ täglich von morgens bis abends.*
'Many monks wear the **well-known “robe”** everyday from morning to night.'

[1] Bertrand, R., & Espesser, R. 2002. Voice diversity in conversation: A case study. In Bel, B., & Marlien, I. (Eds.), *Speech Prosody 2002*. Aix-en-Provence, France, 171–174.

[2] Cappelen, H., & Lepore, E. 1997. Varieties of Quotation. *Mind* 106(423), 429–450.

[3] Jansen, W., Gregory, M. L., & Brenier, J. M. 2001. Prosodic correlates of directly reported speech: Evidence from conversational speech. *Prosody in Speech Recognition and Understanding* (Paper 14). Red Bank, NJ.

[4] Klewitz, G., & Couper-Kuhlen, E. 1999. *QUOTE – UNQUOTE? The role of prosody in the contextualization of reported speech sequences* (= Interaction and Linguistic Structures 12). Konstanz: University of Konstanz.

[5] Oliveira, M. Jr., & Cunha, D. A. C. 2004. Prosody as marker of direct reported speech boundary. In Bel, B., & Marlien, I. (Eds.), *Speech Prosody 2004*. Nara, Japan, 263–266.