

Costellazioni. Rivista di lingue e letterature.

Monograph of issue no 27

Editors

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Voice as a Means of Communication and as an Intentional and Emotional Phenomenon

The voice is a tool capable of telling, befriending, describing, involving and communicating – it is part of us, it belongs to our human nature. We learn how to use it soon after birth and then it becomes our most distinctive trait – effectively, in the whole world there are no two identical voices. This uniqueness enables our nervous systems to interpret the voices it encounters in such a subtle way as to extract from the words heard a lot more than they say. Unconsciously, interlocutors are able to extract essential, and sometimes imperceptible, information contained in any oral communication. Listening to the way a person talks, for example, helps in evaluating the credibility, reliability and propriety of what is being said, as well as the real intentions of the speaker. But, more than that, listening to the kind of voice someone is using at a given time, we can also grasp the level of his or her involvement in the subject, how much passion there is in the desire to communicate and what kind of success is expected. The voice tells us a lot about a person, about his or her moods, cultural backgrounds and intelligence. Depending on the tone, degree or speed of the words, our autonomic system perceives and processes reactions, which might be various and often conflicting.

Research Scope

In the light of the reflections above and of the complexities inherent to the voice as an object of scientific interest as well as of emotional value, the monograph proposed intends to develop an analysis of the mechanisms acting behind vocal production during intentional communications and according to the different situations that determine them and the feelings and interpretations resulting between interlocutors. Hearing as a tool merely allows us to perceive a voice, but then, once heard, it undergoes a process of

review and interpretation in the areas of the brain responsible for integrating whatever is sensed by the body as a whole. Therefore, a further target of this research project is to discuss perceptions that the several intentions of vocal communications raise on other perceptions, such as, for example, colour, taste or smell.

Possible subjects:

- The voice as a means to communicate in history
- The physiological preconditions of voice production
- Physiology of hearing
- Basic neurological processes for vocal comprehension
- Interpretations of communicative vocal intentions
- The voice, hearing and their integrations with other perceptions

Keywords

voice, communication, physiological processes, hearing

Deadlines

- Abstracts to be sent by January 31st 2024 (maximum 450 words, including bibliography and short biographical note)*
- Confirmation or refusal of proposals will be sent by February 28th 2024 • Essays in their final form according to the review stylesheet** must be sent to Editors by June 30th 2024

(*) Abstracts must be sent before January 31st 2024 to the three following addresses:

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Languages accepted: English or Italian

(**) Review Stylesheet at: <https://www.rivistacostellazioni.org/normeredazionali>

Abstracts will be selected by the Editors

Articles before confirmation will undergo double blind peer review