

Enjoy the silence! Pauses: articulatory, acoustic and physiological considerations.

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While the pause has long been considered important for its importance in Rhetoric, it is only recently that other disciplines such as psycholinguistics, automatic language processing or phonetics are interested in these moments of silence. Thus, it has been shown that if the pause is a rupture of the acoustic signal, it is not however devoid of physiological (respiration) and / or cognitive (speech planning) activities. Both are as important for the message as the speech activity.

In this talk, we question the notion of a silent pause from two studies. One based on analysis of silent pauses in semi-directed and read speech where we seek to identify the characteristics of silent, respiratory, syntactic and hesitation pauses considering the acoustic, articulatory, acoustic and physiological data together. In the other one, we examined the read speech of native and non-native speakers with respect to pausing details of audible breathing, particularly in disfluent phases