

ACOUSTICS2008/1691
**The role of segmental and intonational cues in dialect
discrimination**

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Research indicates that adult listeners are able to use intonation to discriminate between two languages when one of the languages is familiar (Ramus and Mehler, 1999; Pijper, 1983). In this paper, we test adults to determine whether they use segmental or intonational cues to distinguish their native dialect from a foreign one. In three experiments, American English listeners were asked to categorize American and Australian English sentences when a) segmental and supra-segmental cues are available, b) sentences are re-synthesized with flat intonation, leaving only segmental cues, c) segmental information is stripped away, leaving only intonation. Results will be discussed in the context of infant research demonstrating that five month olds are able to distinguish different dialects of the same language (Nazzi, Jusczyk & Johnson 2000).