



The relationship between phonological memory and L2 oral fluency development

Research has repeatedly shown that phonological memory (PM), most often referenced by nonword repetition or immediate memory span measures, underlies the development of different aspects of L2 learning such as vocabulary and grammar skill in both children and adults (French & O'Brien, 2008; Atkins & Baddeley, 1998). This study examines in particular the role PM plays in L2 oral fluency development in an intensive learning context. Discussed is the relationship between PM and temporal characteristics of fluency (e.g., speech rate, mean length run, pauses) and whether PM ability increases over time as a function of increases in L2 proficiency and fluency.



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