

# THE INFLUENCE OF FOREIGN ACCENT ON MORAL DECISIONS. A RESEARCH PROPOSAL.

1

## SITUATIONAL APPROACH

According to Fletcher (1997), the morality of an act is determined by its context rather than by absolute moral standards.

2

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE EFFECT (FLE)

In moral decision making, it can be observed as an increase in utilitarian decisions. It is often attributed to feeling more emotionally distant in a foreign language.

3

## RQS: WILL FOREIGN-ACCENTED SPEECH AFFECT MORAL DECISION MAKING TOO? WILL THE TYPE OF THE FOREIGN ACCENT MATTER?

Foreign-accented speech can:

- modulate emotion processing (Hatzidaki et al., 2015)
- disrupt processing fluency (Lev-Ari & Keysar, 2010)

4

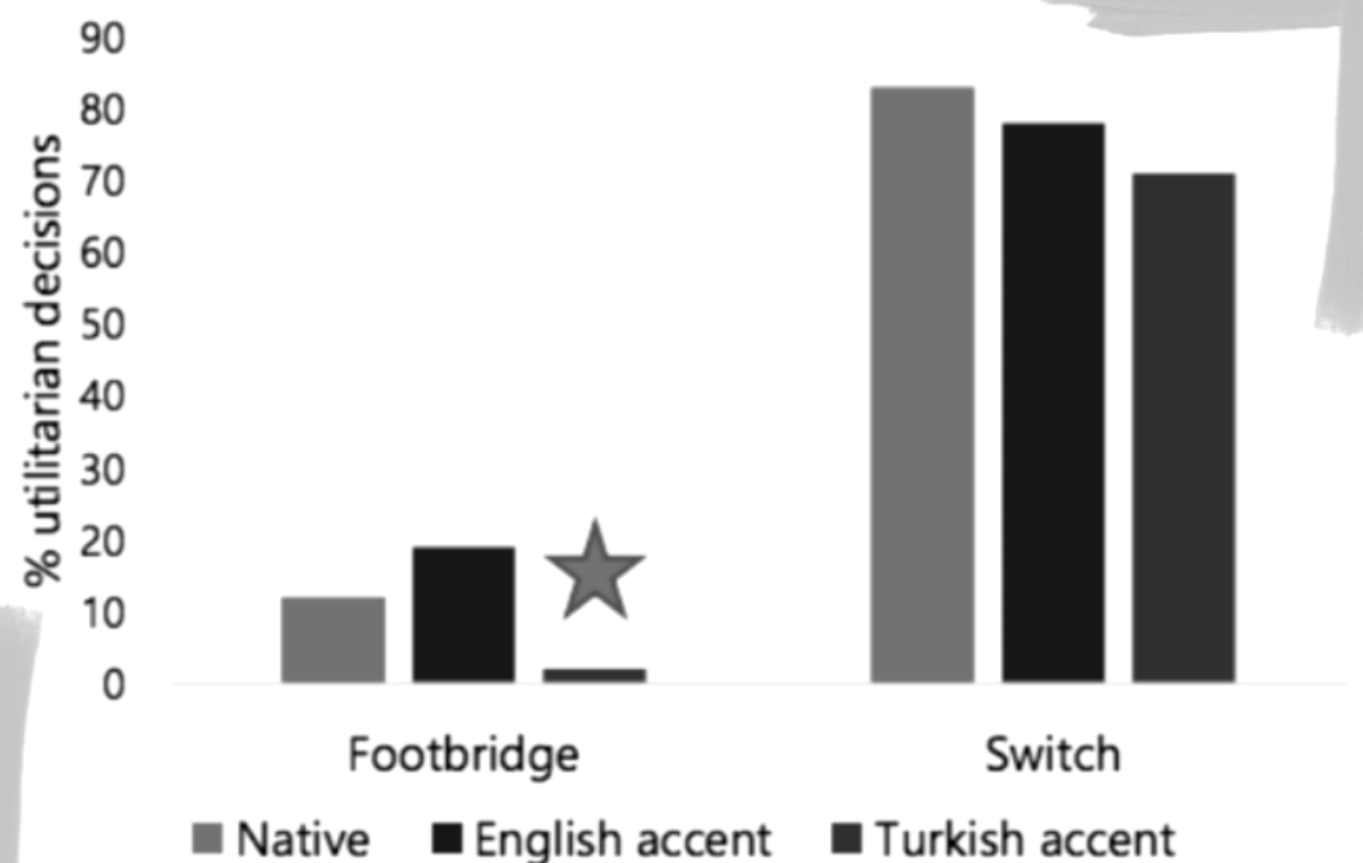
## FOUCART & BROUWER (2021)

conducted two experiments on the influence of foreign-accent on moral decisions.

**Experiment 1:** English-accented speech. No effect due to the Dutch participants being used to English-accented speech, and the foreign-accentedness being low.

**Experiment 2:** Turkish-accented speech. Decrease in utilitarian decisions due to foreign-accentedness being higher and the accent being less familiar.

The effect was observed only for the footbridge dilemma, which requires pushing someone to death to save others. It is a lot more personal compared to using a switch. Thus, it is harder for most individuals to make the utilitarian decision in that scenario.



5

## POLISH LISTENERS

According to Radomski & Szpyra, (2014), the foreign accent rated as the least foreign is Ukrainian. The most foreign-sounding accent is Spanish.

6

## PLANNED RESEARCH

Participants: native speakers of Polish

Materials: dilemmas presented in Polish

Variables:

i) Accent: Native/Foreign(Ukrainian)/Foreign(Spanish) (between-subject variation)

ii) Dilemma type: Switch/Footbridge (within-subject variation)

Expected results: decreased utilitarian reactions for Spanish accent, no effect for Ukrainian accent

Fletcher, J. F. (1997). *Situation Ethics: The New Morality*. Westminster John Knox Press.

Foucort, A., & Brouwer, S. (2021). Is there a foreign accent effect on moral judgment? *Brain Sciences*, 11(12), 1631. <https://doi.org/10.3390/brainsci11121631>

Hatzidaki, A., Baus, C., & Costa, A. (2015). The way you say it, the way I feel it: emotional word processing in accented speech. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 6. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2015.00351>

Lev-Ari, S., & Keysar, B. (2010). Why don't we believe non-native speakers? the influence of accent on credibility. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 46, 1093–1096. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jesp.2010.05.025>

Szpyra-Kozłowska, J., & Radomski, M. (2014). The perception of English-accented Polish – a pilot study. *Research in Language*, 10(1), 97–109. <https://doi.org/10.2478/v10015-011-0041-x>