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Interaction between stress and syllable final consonants: does stress facilitate the production of final consonants for Vietnamese L2-learners of Swedish?

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This contribution addresses typical pronunciation difficulties of L2-learners with a typologically distinct L1. Focus is on the L2-acquisition of Swedish by learners with Vietnamese as their L1. Syllable final consonants and consonant clusters in various L2 are known to be a problem for L1-speakers of Vietnamese. The collected data, on which this study is based, shows that such difficulty seems to be dependent on the prosodic status of the syllable, i.e. whether the final consonant or cluster occurs in a stressed syllable or not. Beyond the fact that particular consonants and clusters are more prone to disappear, the recorded data uncovers that the consonants and clusters are lacking rather in the case that the syllable in question is unstressed. It should be pointed out, that stress placement in L2 is remarkably stable and correct for the recorded speakers which – in our experience - is unusual for L2-speakers of Swedish with an L1 so different.