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Speakers convey messages through the sequential production of words. Specific utterance-wide properties have been shown to impact the realization of a message. These properties include information density over time and the availability of upcoming linguistic material [Levy06, Jaeger06; Bock85, Ferreira00]. The demands of producing an ordered string of words at a conversational speaking rate may also impact the choices speakers make in production.

Effects of local context are important both as controls in studies of global utterance planning processes, and as indicators of strategies for dealing with the demands of sequential word production. Documented interactions exist between frequency and duration; between frequency and fluency; and between phonology, fluency, and duration [Bell03; Arnold07; Wheeldon03, Aylett04]. The role these factors play in determining production choices is investigated here.

We report the results of two corpus studies investigating the roles these factors play in determining the full or contracted realization of English *be* and *not* forms. After eliminating contexts where reduction was not possible, we tested 10,482 reduced *be*, 6,042 full *be*, 5,729 reduced *not*, and 909 full *not* forms. Models for both studies controlled for the predictability of the word, speech rate, and other factors known to affect contraction. All effects mentioned below are significant at least at the  $p < .01$  level, as measured by a  $\chi^2$ -test after factor removal.

Longer duration of the preceding word accompanies increase likelihood of contraction. Longer duration of the following word corresponds to lower odds of contraction. Higher frequency preceding words also significantly increase the likelihood of contraction. While no effects of transcribed disfluencies were found, longer pauses after the target are associated with higher chances of using the full form. Finally, the complexity of the final consonant cluster of the preceding word impacts contraction processes: the odds of using a full form increase with the length of that consonant cluster.

These results indicate that in addition to the message-level constraints that govern diction, immediate influences like the duration of neighboring words and the local phonological context can also drive speaker's choices. These results further illustrate the importance of controlling for the effects of local context in studies of utterance planning, and include several new measures of local context that significantly impact observed patterns in production.