



The Ethics of Accent Modification

Authors: Robert McKinney, San Diego State University

Instructional Level: Beginning

10:30 AM-12:00 PM Sunday, March 27, 2022

Session Description

Adults acquiring a new language often face challenges because their speech sounds different from those who acquired the language at an earlier age. Accents are an oft-cited factor in linguistic discrimination, and when non-native speakers are less intelligible or comprehensible than other speakers of the language, their ability to communicate effectively can be reduced. In many cases, non-native speakers seek targeted phonological instruction (also called “accent modification”) from trained professionals, including speech-language pathologists (SLPs). Although phonology is a core component of all oral language learning, many SLPs have criticized accent modification because they view it as an effort to force others to conform to perceived linguistic norms. This seminar will seek to provide a better understanding of best practices in accent modification and will directly address the concerns related to the ethical provision of these elective services.

Speaker Bio: Robert McKinney, M.A., CCC-SLP holds MAs in Communicative Disorders, International Relations, and Education. He is the lead SLP at the Sweetwater District, and at SDSU he teaches phonetics and supervises in their Accent and Communication Training Program. He speaks 6 languages and has worked with clients from over 80 countries.

Speaker Disclosures

Robert McKinney, San Diego State University

Financial Disclosures: Robert McKinney - Royalties: From book "Here's How to Do Accent Modification".

Non-Financial Disclosures: Robert McKinney has no relevant non-financial disclosures.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:

- As a result of this presentation, the participant will be able to explain the nature of non-native accents and their connection to linguistic discrimination.
- As a result of this presentation, the participant will be able to identify some concerns regarding the ethical provision of accent modification.
- As a result of this presentation, the participant will be able to describe best practices for ethical accent modification.

This session is being offered for 1.5 SLP AHADB Credits and .15 ASHA CEUs



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