

SOCIAL & PSYCHOBIOLOGICAL ASPECTS
OF
WHISPERED SPEECH

Dissertation

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PREFACE

THIS THESIS documents my research as a Ph.D. student at the Freie Universität Berlin. The research was designed to elucidate the communicative role of whispered vocalisations. Compared to normal speech, whispered speech had remained a rather neglected objective. I would wish that the results of my study will change this situation, and also help to advertise the astounding properties of this remarkable verbal display. As a first step into such direction the following articles were published in / submitted to international journals:

Cirillo, J. & Todt, D. (2002). Decoding whispered vocalisations: relationships between social and emotional variables. *Proceedings of the International Conference on Neural Information Processing*. Singapore, 1559-1563. - (Dissertation: Chapter 2.3)

Cirillo, J. (2004). Whispering: Communication by Unvoiced Speech. *Annals of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences*, 76 (in press). - (Dissertation: Chapter 2.2, 3.1. & 4.1)

Cirillo, J. & Todt, D. (submitted). Outgroup-effects of an ingroup-signal: the role of whispered speech. - (Dissertation: Chapter 3.2)

Cirillo, J. & Todt, D. (to be submitted). Whispered vocalisations and auditory vigilance can distract the attention from a visual learning task. - (Dissertation: Chapter 4.2)

Cirillo, J. & Todt, D. (submitted). Why whispering could have evolved as a social ritual of normal speech. - (Dissertation: Chapter 5)

Declaration: I developed all concepts and the methodology of my thesis, collected as well as analysed all data presented here, and finally created the written version of this thesis. Prof. Dr. Dietmar Todt acted as a supervisor during the research and also contributed to the development of concepts and drafts of manuscripts.

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