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## **Corporal Gestures and Communication Strategies within Oral Proficiency Interviews**

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Oral Presentation O2.1

**CORPORAL GESTURES AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES WITHIN  
ORAL PROFICIENCY INTERVIEWS**

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This study is an extension of an investigation by Liskin-Gasparro (1996) on communication strategies (CS) incorporating the use of corporal gestures in a Simulated Oral Proficiency Interview. This investigation uses 8 students of Spanish as a second language, 4 from beginning-level courses, to represent less proficient speakers, and 4 from 400-level courses who have been abroad, representing higher-proficiency levels. The taped interviews are transcribed to analyze the CS utilized by the participants. The analysis is expected to suggest that oral proficiency level, as stated by the ACTFL (American Counsel on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Proficiency Guidelines, does not affect the use of corporal gestures during communication breakdowns, showing that less proficient speakers can be as effective using CS as those who are more proficient.