



What is accentism?

We all have an accent. A person's accent can tell us a lot about their age, gender, geographical origin, and even their level of education or social class.

Based on these vocal cues, we make assumptions, and it's perfectly normal to do so.

However, an accent should not tell us anything about reliability, competence, or professional ability.

Assumptions of that kind are prejudices, and if they end up impacting how a person is perceived and treated, they become a form of discrimination. Accentism is a form of discrimination based solely on how a person speaks.

Why is accentism a problem?

Because it has been shown that biases based on how a person speaks can lead to inequalities in access to employment, housing, and education.

Prejudices against accents different from the standard language are also common in educational settings and can affect the assessment of students' performance.

Accentism exists, but it is still a relatively unknown phenomenon. The general lack of awareness surrounding it makes it difficult to identify its effects.

What we do

The CIRCE project has three main objectives:

- Investigate how accents are perceived by students and teachers.
- Provide students and teachers with resources to develop greater tolerance for linguistic diversity.
- Raise public awareness about the issue of accentism in the school and university context.

Did you know?

Circe was a goddess, but her voice resembled that of a woman, which is why other gods viewed her with suspicion. Greek mythology may thus provide us one of the earliest examples of accentism!



**Are you a teacher?
Do you want to
participate with
your class in this
research project?**