

IS ONE LANGUAGE BETTER THAN ANOTHER?

Let's Compare European listeners' rankings based on two different qualities:

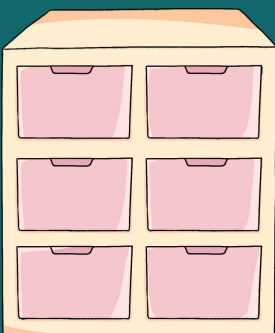
BEAUTY

- 1. FRENCH
- 2. ENGLISH
- 3. ITALIAN



ORDERLINESS

- 1. ENGLISH
- 2. GERMAN
- 3. UKRANIAN



What factors impact these rankings?

SPEECH RATE
(AUDITORY)

How fast native speakers talk

RECOGNITION RATE
(SOCIAL)

How recognizable the spoken language is to the European listeners

L1 COMMUNITY SIZE
(SOCIAL)

How large the spoken language community size is



BEAUTY



BEAUTY
&
ORDERLINESS



ORDERLINESS



KEY TAKEAWAYS!

Listener rankings vary based on what quality you ask about- no one language ranks on top every time.

It's not just auditory factors influencing these rankings - social factors do, too.



NEXT TIME YOU START TO MAKE A JUDGEMENT ON WHICH LANGUAGE IS "BETTER," REMEMBER THE SOCIAL FACTORS THAT ARE INFLUENCING YOUR DECISION!

SOURCE:

KOGAN, VITA & REITERER, SUSANNE. 2021. EROS, BEAUTY, AND PHON-AESTHETIC JUDGEMENTS OF LANGUAGE SOUND. WE LIKE IT FLAT AND FAST, BUT NOT MELODIOUS. COMPARING PHONETIC AND ACOUSTIC FEATURES OF 16 EUROPEAN LANGUAGES. *FRONTIERS IN HUMAN NEUROSCIENCE* 15.