

## SPATIAL RELEASE FROM MASKING IN YOUNG ADULTS USING DIFFERENT TYPES OF NOISE

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This experimental study compared spatial release from masking in normal hearing young adults using different types of noise. Thirty subjects consisting of fifteen males and fifteen females participated in this study. All subjects were aged between 19 to 27 years old with mean age 22.13 years old and standard deviation 1.22 years old. *Word recognition score (WRS)* were measured by using *Bahasa Melayu* word list (BM word list). Target speech (BM word list) was presented from front (0°). Three different types of noise that is multitalker babble, speech noise and white noise were presented from 0°, 30°, 60° and 90° respectively and randomly. Spatial release from masking score was measured by subtracting WRS of specific location with WRS as 0°. Descriptive and statistical analyses were carried out to assess the results. In general, descriptive analysis showed that spatial release from masking occurred by using different types of noise. The largest amount of spatial release from masking was obtained by using speech noise (28.92% at 30°, 37.00% at 60°, 38.83% at 90°), followed by multitalker babble (19.45% at 30°, 26.35% at 60°, 29.7% at 90°) and lastly white noise (5.50%, at 30°, 10.50% at 60°, 13.38% at 90°). Besides, spatial release from masking was increased when the spatial separation becomes larger regardless types of noise used. For statistical analysis, results revealed that there were significant differences in mean score of spatial release from masking by using different type, of noise ( $p < 0.05$ ) or different direction of noise sources ( $p < 0.01$ ) Results from this study concluded that there were differences between spatial release from masking using different types of noise.

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