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Phonetic Portfolio (Marinović)

Jovana Marinović
St. Cloud State University

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PHONETIC PORTFOLIO

JOVANA MARINOVIĆ

1.0 Introduction

My name is Jovana Marinović. I am a female, 22 years old. I was born in Kragujevac, the city in Central Serbia. I have spent my entire life there up to August 2011, when I came to the United States as an exchange student. So I have been in the U.S. for eight months now. I speak Serbian language which is my mother tongue, and I am fluent in English language. Serbian language, being my First Language, influences my pronunciation of English. I am an English language and literature major and I would like to continue my studies as a TESL major.

2.0 IPA Transcription

[aɪ əm frɒm sɪˈbɪə ən aɪ əm ˈɪŋɡlɪʃ ˈmeɪdʒə aɪ ˈstʌdi ɪn maɪ ˈsɪdɪ wɪtʃ ˈmiːnz

I am from Serbia and I am English major. I study in my city, which means

aɪ wəz ˈlɪvɪŋ wɪð maɪ ˈpʰæɪənts ɪvən ðəʊ aɪ wəz ɪn ðɪ jʊnɪˈvɜːsədɪ

I was living with my parents even though I was in the University.

aɪ ˈnəʊ naʊ ðæt ðæt ɪz ɪlɪ stɹeɪndʒ fɔː əmˈæɪkən ˈstʊdənts

I know now that that is really strange for American students.

aɪ əm ɪlɪ ˈlʌki aɪ ɡɒt tə ˈstʌdi əˈbraʊd əz ən ɛksˈtʃeɪndʒ ˈstʊdənt

I am really lucky I got to study abroad as an exchange student.

ði ˌæplɪˈkeɪʃən fɔː ðə ˈpʰɹɔʊgrəm ɪkˈwestɪd ə lɒt əv ˈdɒkjʊmənts ən wɜːk

The application for the program requested a lot of documents and work,

bət ˈevɪθɪŋ ˈpʰeɪd ɔf aɪ əm ɪn ðɪ jʊˈnaɪtəd steɪts nəʊ

but everything paid off. I am in the United States now

ən kən ɪksˈpɪɪəns ˈdɪfɪənt ˈkʌltʃə ən ˈlɜːn həʊ ɪz tə bi ən jɔː əʊn

and can experience different culture and learn how it is to be on your own.

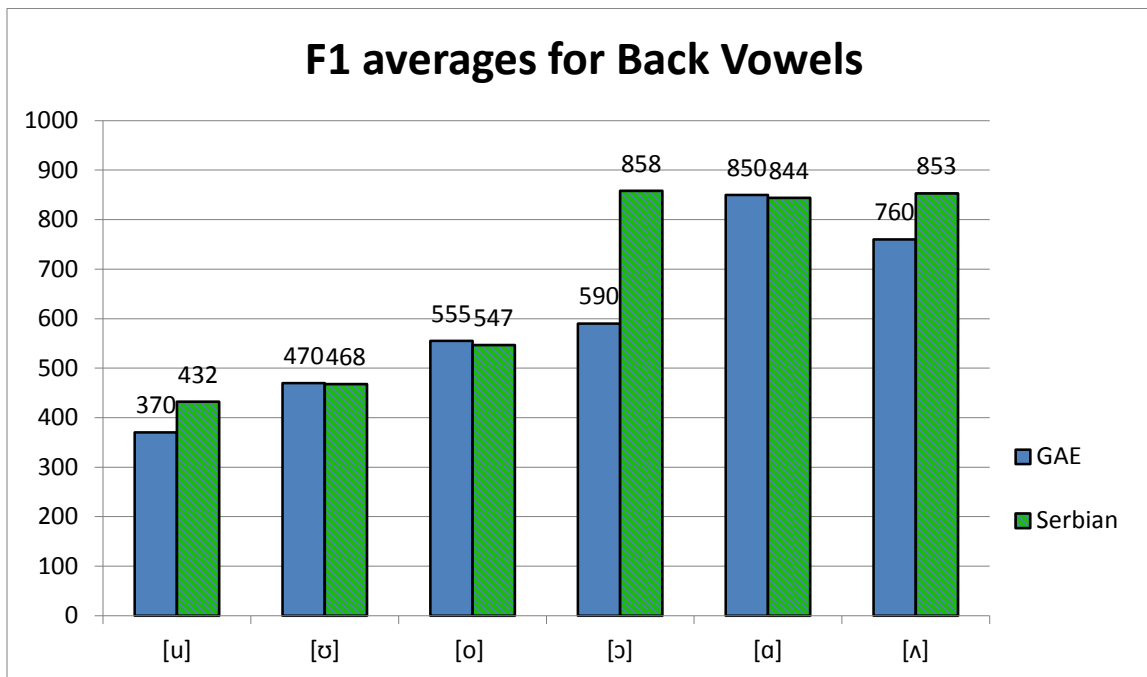
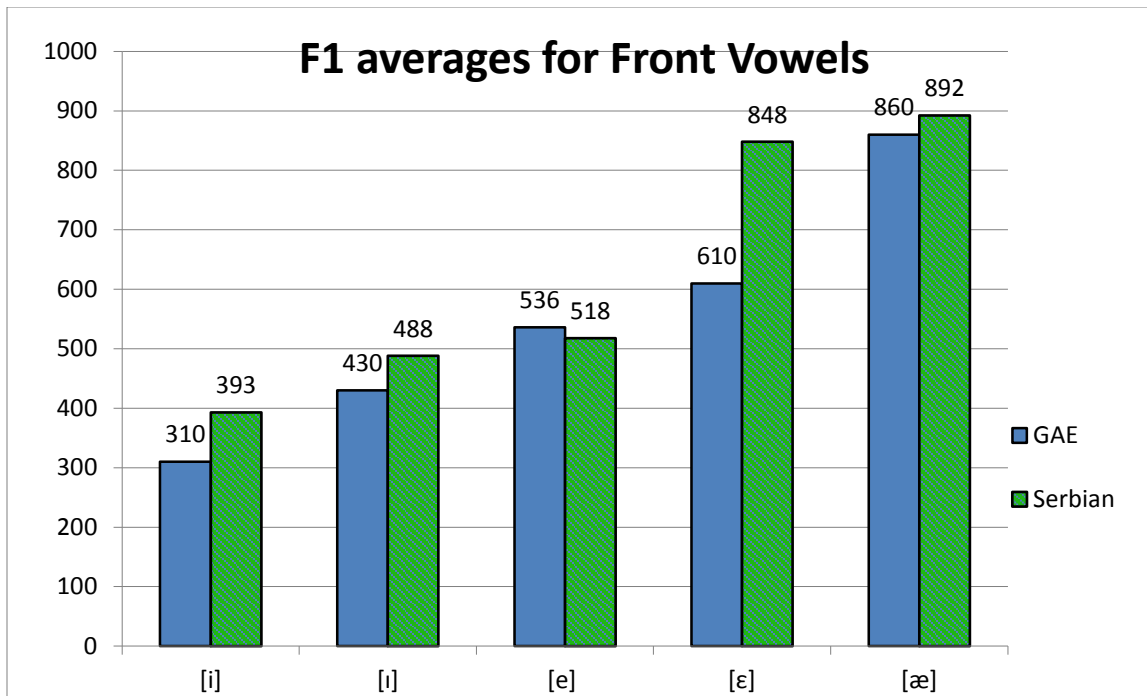
æz ən ˈɪŋɡlɪʃ ˈmeɪdʒə aɪ əpɪˈʃieɪt ðə ˈtʃæns tə bi ɪn ən ˈɪŋɡlɪʃ ˈspiːkɪŋg ˈkʰʌntɹi

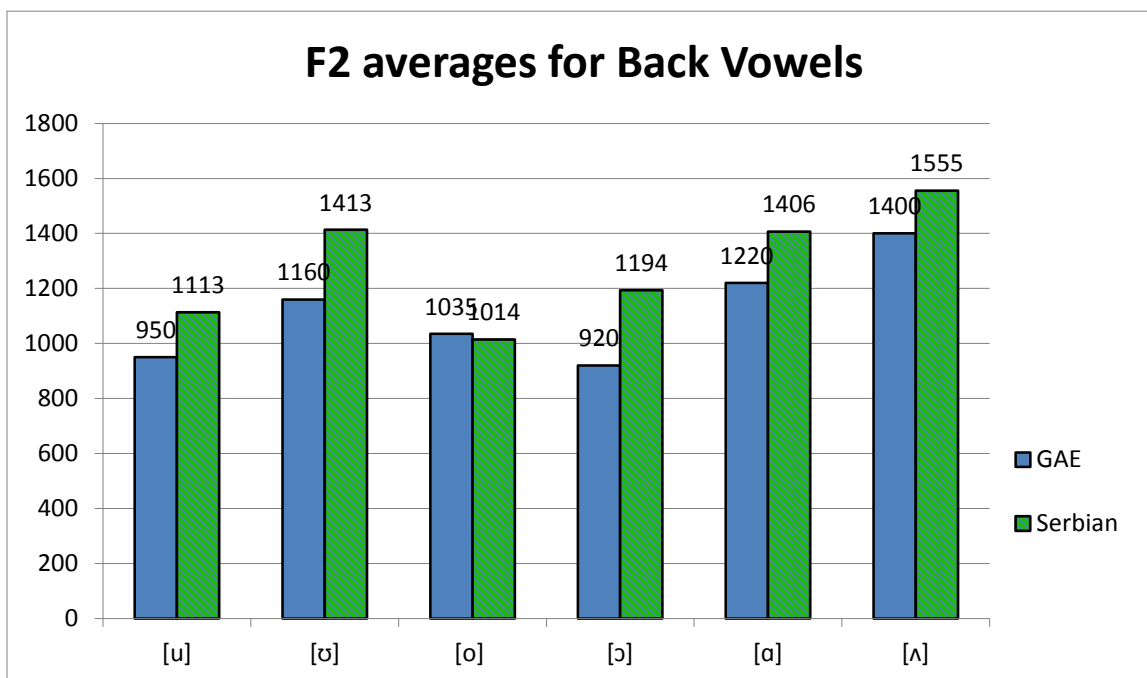
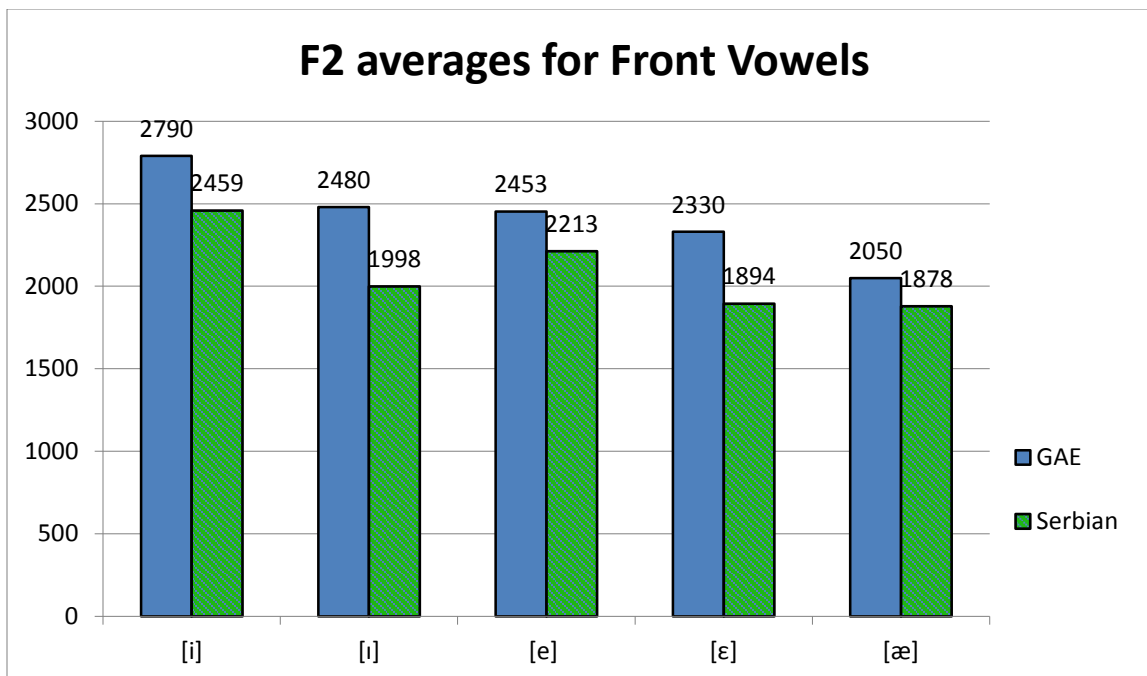
As an English major, I appreciate the chance to be in an English speaking country

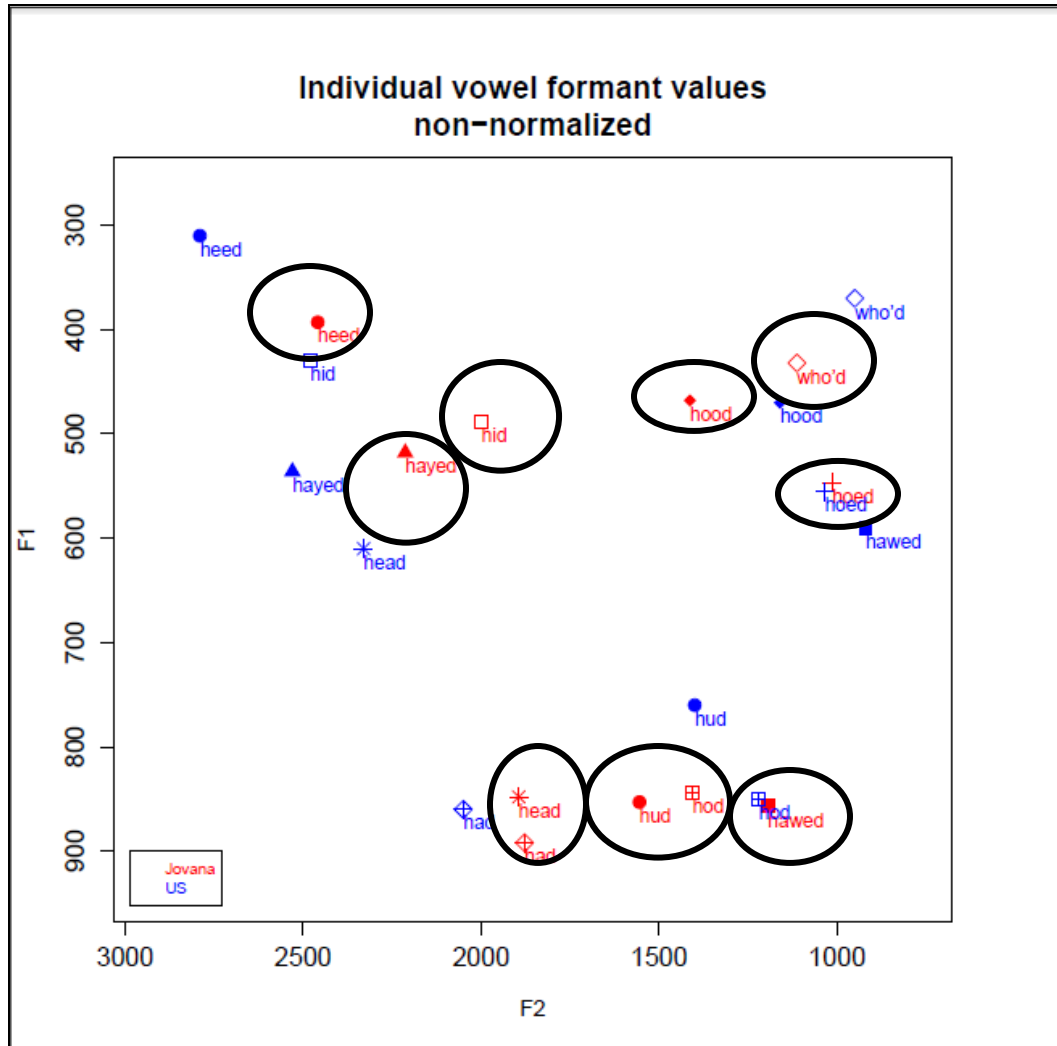
ˈweɪ aɪ əm kʰɒnstəntli ˈjuːzɪŋ ðə ˈlæŋɡwɪdʒ aɪ əm stʌdɪŋg

where I am constantly using the language I am studying.

ai bæli:v ai əm 'kʰɒntɪbjəʒɪŋg tə seɪnt̩ klaʊd̩ kəm'ju:nɪʒi sɪms ai vɒləntɪə-ɪ
I believe I am contributing to Saint Cloud community since I volunteer
wɪð ti:tʃɪŋg ɪŋɡlɪʃ tə sɒmɒli ə'dʌlɪt̩ lə-ɪnə-ɪz ðeɪ ai ə lɒʔ əv sɒmɒli 'ɪmɪgrənts ɪn
with teaching English to Somali adult learners. There are a lot of Somali immigrants in
mɪnə'səʊðə ən ai faʊnd aʊt əbaʊt ðeɪ ni:d tə læɹn ðə 'læŋgwɪdʒ
Minnesota, and I found out about their need to learn the language.
nɒt̩ əʊnli dʊ ai ɪndʒəɪ helpɪŋg ðəm bʌʔ ɒlsəʊ ai geɪn ðə 'tʰɪtʃɪŋ ɛkspi:ɪəns wɪtʃ ɪz
Not only do I enjoy helping them but also I gain the teaching experience, which is
sʌmθɪŋg ai ɪli ni:d ai wʊd laɪk tʊ meɪk sʌm pɹəʊɡɹəm fɔ: ədʌlts bæk ɪn maɪ kʰʌntɪi
something I really need. I would like to make some program for adults back in my country.

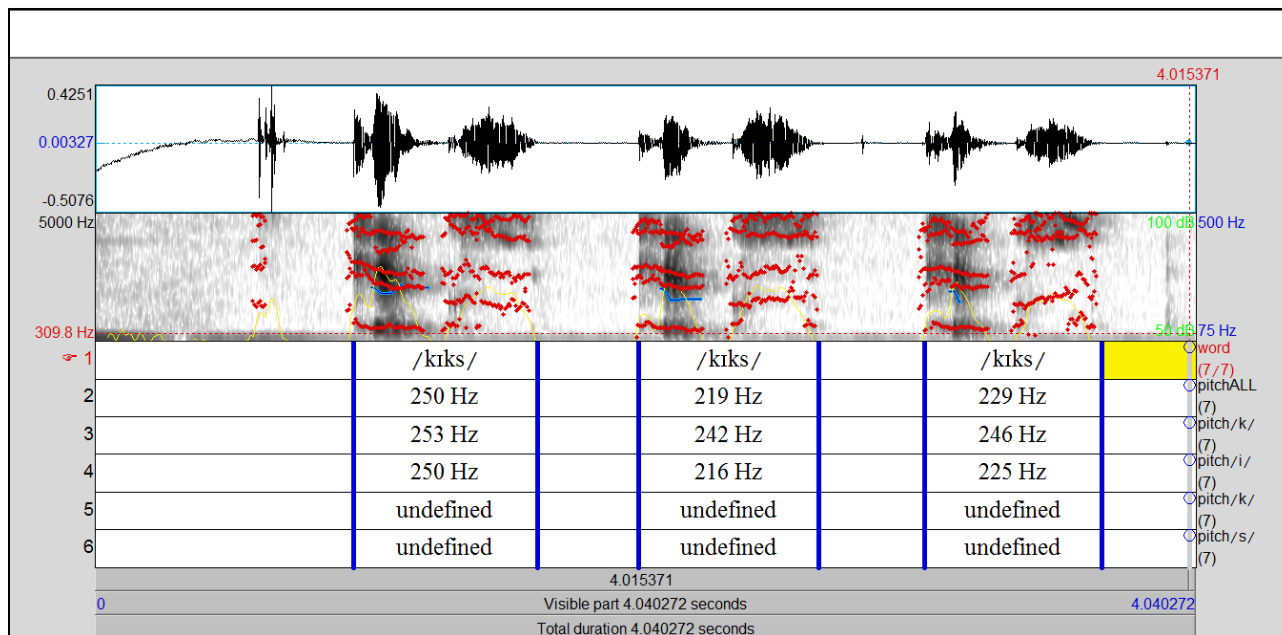






We can observe General American English Vowels in comparison with my pronunciation of those same vowels and conclude why I would be considered to have an accent. What is most notable is that my [ɛ] in <head> has almost merged with [æ] in <had> so actually what did happen to me is that my American friend could not understand whether I am saying <head> or <had>, which means that I would need to provide a context for those words to be distinguished in my pronunciation. Also, my [ɔ] (as in <hawed>) has been completely lowered and merged with [ɑ] (<hod>). Based on the measurements and my vowel normalization chart I can say that most of my vowels tend to be lowered.

Pitch Analysis of <Kicks>

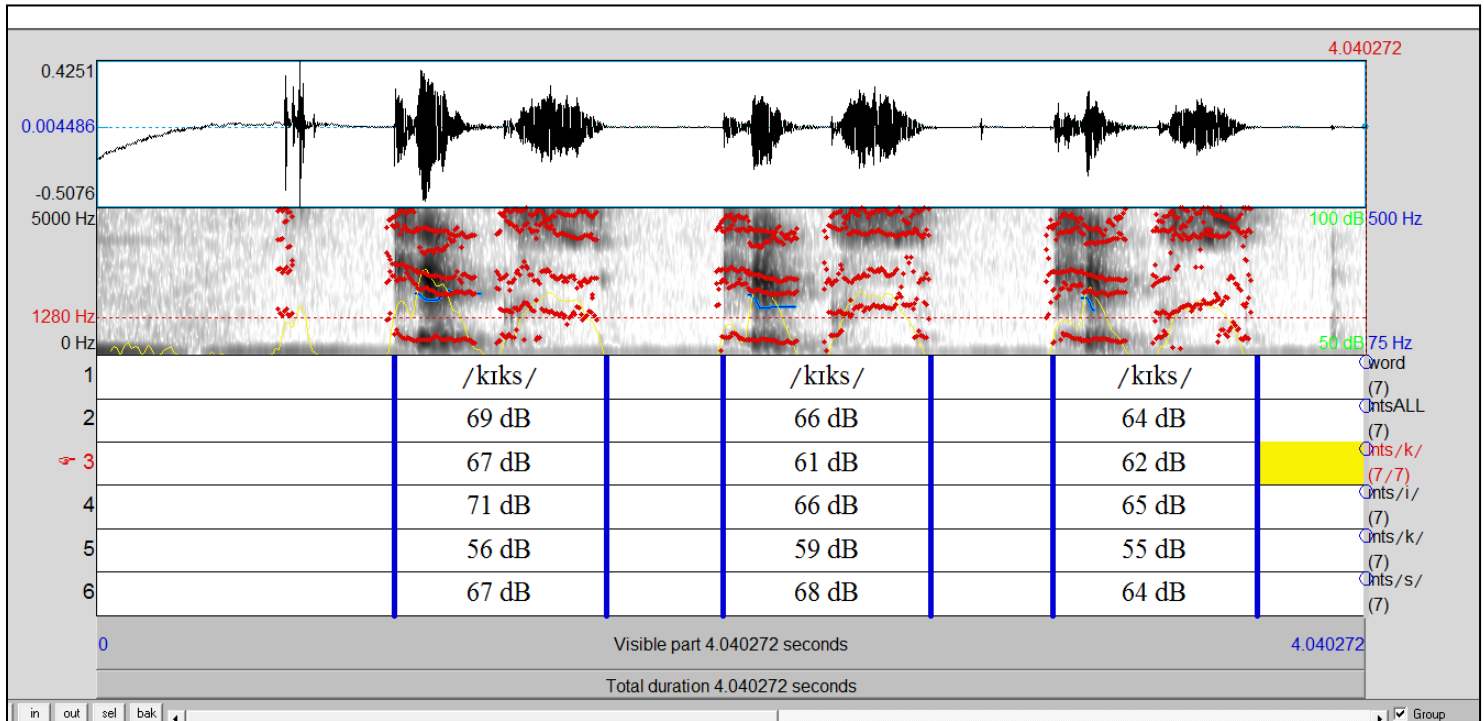


Mean pitch data:

1. Tier 1: phonetic transcription of the word /kɪks/
2. Tier 2: Mean pitch of the whole word: 232 Hz
3. Tier 3: Mean pitch of /k/: 247 Hz
4. Tier 4: Mean pitch of /ɪ/: 230 Hz
5. Tier 5: Mean pitch of /k/: undefined, that is between 20 Hz and 75 Hz
6. Tier 6: Mean pitch of /s/: undefined, that is between 20 Hz and 75 Hz

The pitch of the word <kicks> was the highest the first time I said it (250 Hz) and lowest in the second time I said it (219 Hz), making the mean pitch of the word (with the third time) 232 Hz. By listening to the word itself one could guess that the pitch would lower with each sound the word consists of. /k/ has the highest mean pitch (247 Hz), /ɪ/ has slightly lower (230 Hz) and the combination of the voiceless stop and voiceless fricative has a pitch lower than 75 Hz, so Praat could not get it, but we know that is somewhere between 20 and 75 Hz.

Sonority Analysis of <kicks>

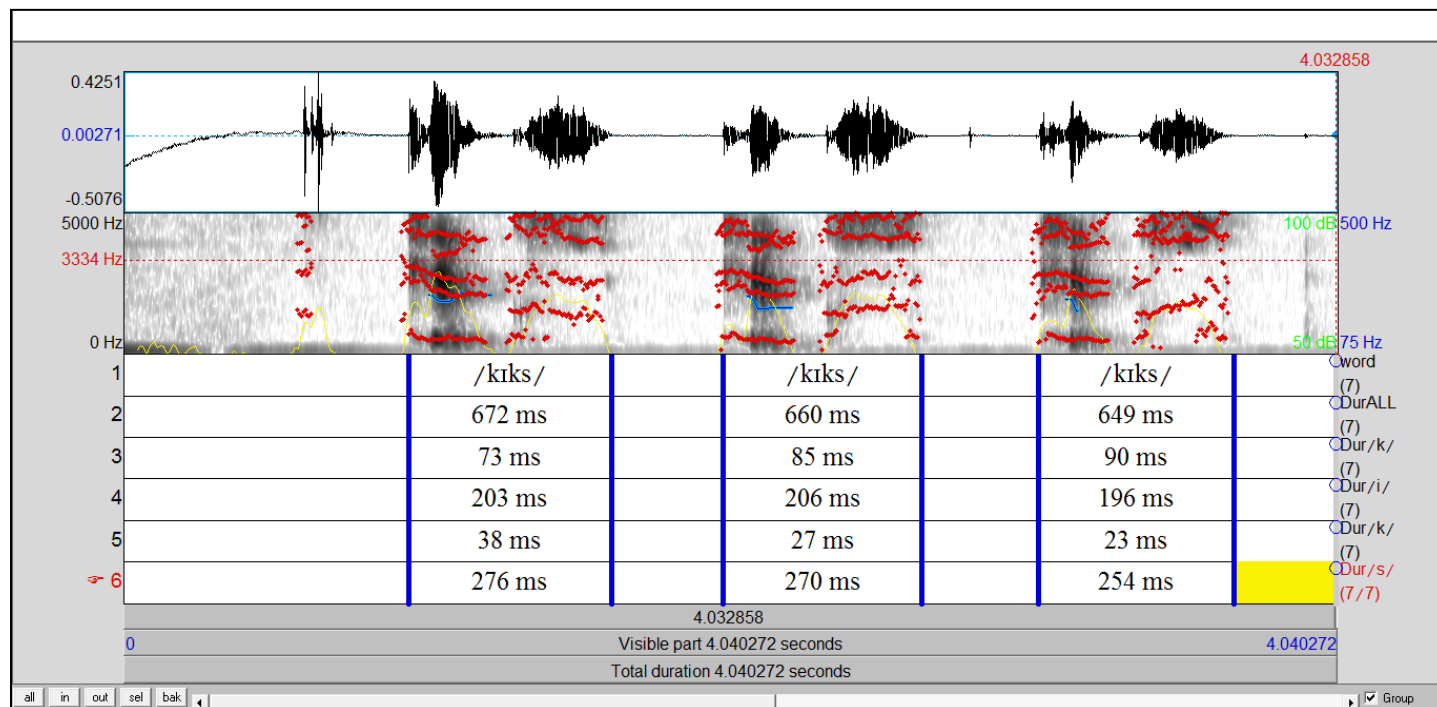


Mean Sonority Data:

1. Tier 1: phonetic transcription of the word
2. Tier 2: Mean sonority for the whole word: 66.3 dB
3. Tier 3: Mean sonority of /k/: 63.3 dB
4. Tier 4: Mean sonority /ɪ/: 67.3 dB
5. Tier 5: Mean sonority of /k/: 56.6 dB
6. Tier 6: Mean sonority of /s/: 66.3 dB

The overall sonority profile of <kicks> once again confirms the loudness of each sound we make and the whole word itself. The vowel /ɪ/ has the highest sonority (mean being 67.3 dB), as expected, and the fricative in the end of the word is close to that of the vowel since we emphasize plural with that phoneme and tend to say it longer and louder (mean is 66.3 dB).

Duration Analysis of <kicks>



Mean duration data:

1. Tier 1: Phonetic transcription of the word.
2. Tier 2: Mean duration of the whole word: 660.3 ms
3. Tier 3: Mean duration of /k/: 82.6 ms
4. Tier 4: Mean duration of /ɪ/: 201.6 ms
5. Tier 5: Mean duration of /k/: 29.3 ms
6. Tier 6: Mean duration of /s/: 266.6 ms

Duration shows us how many milliseconds we spent pronouncing each sound. It is tricky to find out precisely but we can get the overall picture, seeing that the first /k/ is longer because it is voiceless stop before a vowel with clear VOT, and the second /k/ is shorter because it is before a fricative /s/ which has a lot of energy and comes quick over the voiceless stop. First time I said the word <kicks> was longer than the two times after that but the mean data provides us a rough overall picture of how long does it take to say this word.