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Phonetic Portfolio (Kwon)

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PHONETIC PORTFOLIO

SOON JEONG KWON

Biography

My name is Soon Jeong Kwon. I am from South Korea. I am twenty two years old woman. My first language is Korean. I've been using Korean for more than twenty years. I have been living in Minnesota, United States more than one and a half years. I have never been exposed to any other languages rather than Korean and English. I learned English in the classes when I was in Korea, but never had a chance to talk in English.

1.0 Introduction

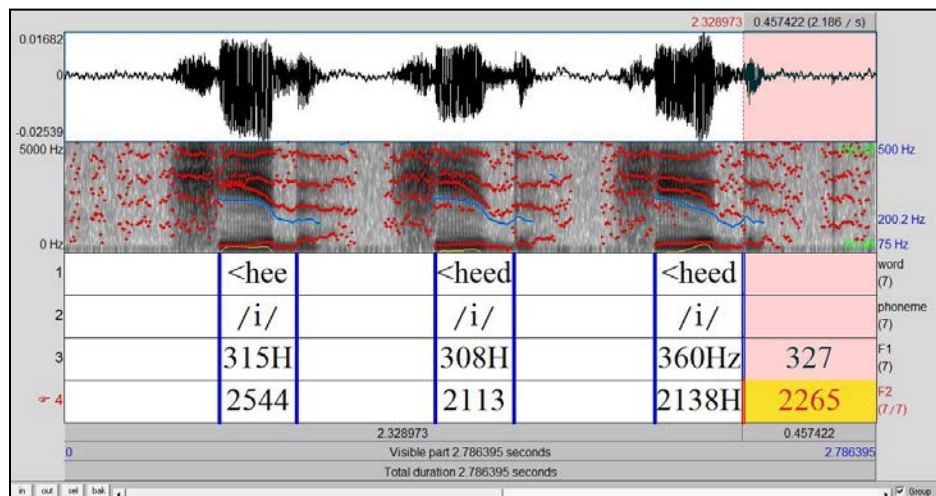
My phonetic portfolio contains three important aspects of phonetic projects that I did for my introduction to phonetic/phonology course, English 473. First, I write a short story that I transcribed phonetically according to the IPA standards. The transcription method that I used method can be described as an allophonic method because it represents the various ways I pronounce the same basic phoneme and the basic morpheme depending on the environments in which it occurs. The second part of my portfolio compares and contrasts my own vowels with those of General American English (GAE). The data from GAE is taken from Peterson and Barney 1952. For the third and final part of my analysis, I produced the sentence "...". And measured the acoustic correlates of stress to see what acoustic strategies I employ when I pronounce the two/or three words.

2.0 Vowel Project

2.1 Overview

Vowel project is to know and compare my pronunciation and GAE vowel. Given 11 vowels are recorded and their F1 and F2 are measured. Each word is recorded three times. Here is a spectrogram example of the one of the vowels [i].

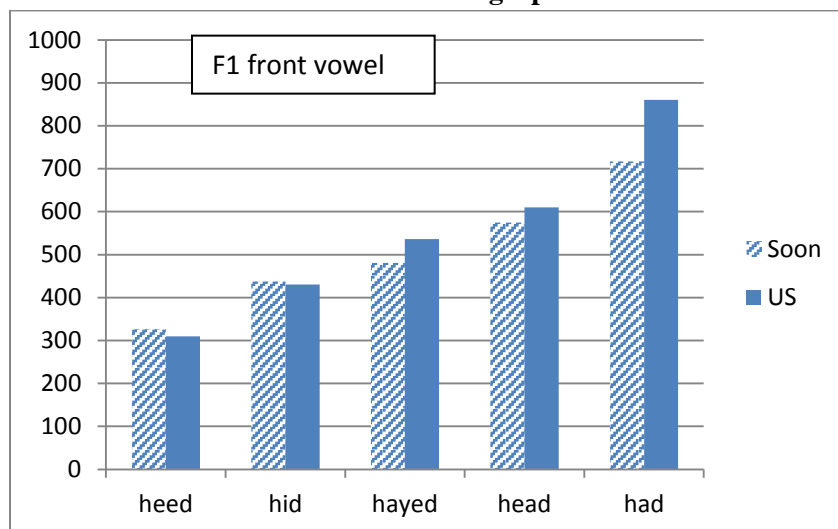
Heed [i]

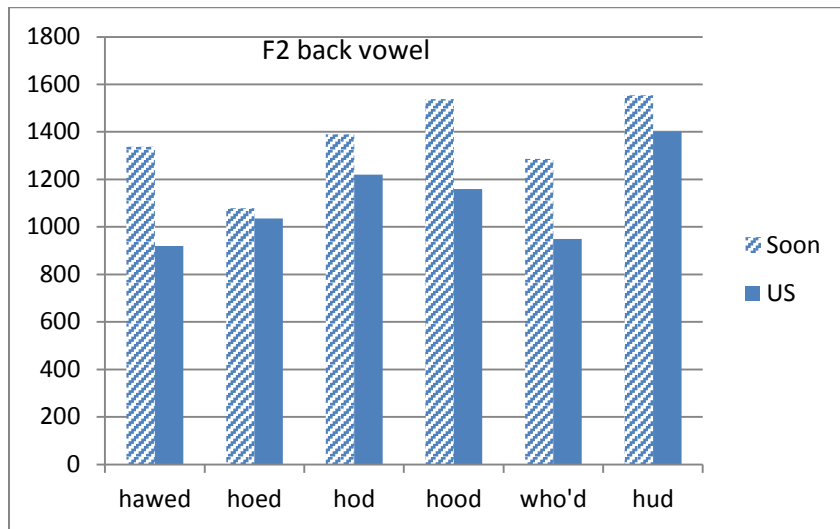
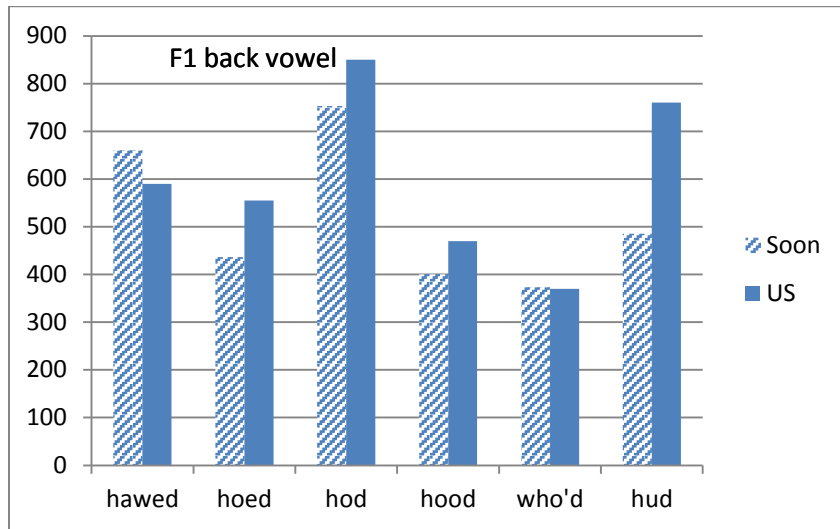
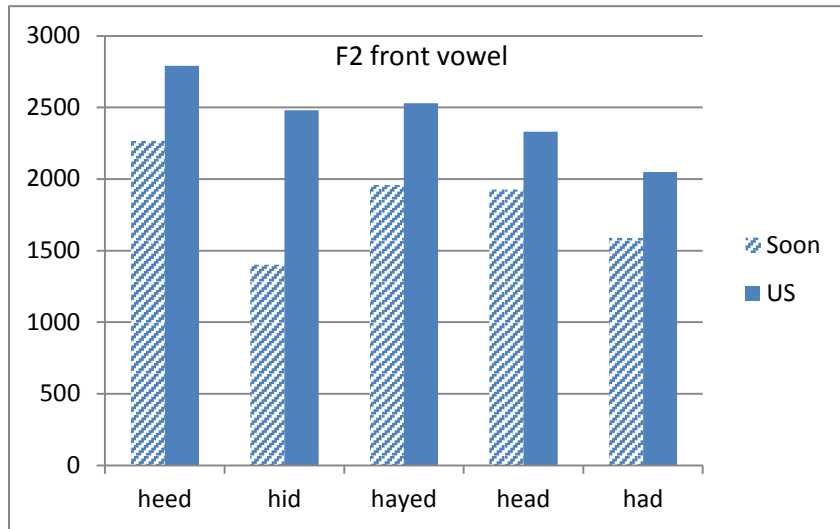


A. Mean numbers:

speaker	vowel	F1	F2
Soon	heed	327	2265
US	heed	310	2790
Soon	hid	438	1401
US	hid	430	2480
Soon	hayed	481	1957
US	hayed	536	2530
Soon	head	575	1926
US	head	610	2330
Soon	had	717	1589
US	had	860	2050
Soon	hawed	660	1337
US	hawed	590	920
Soon	hoed	436	1078
US	hoed	555	1035
Soon	hod	753	1390
US	hod	850	1220
Soon	hood	400	1538
US	hood	470	1160
Soon	who'd	373	1286
US	who'd	370	950
Soon	hud	485	1554
US	hud	760	1400

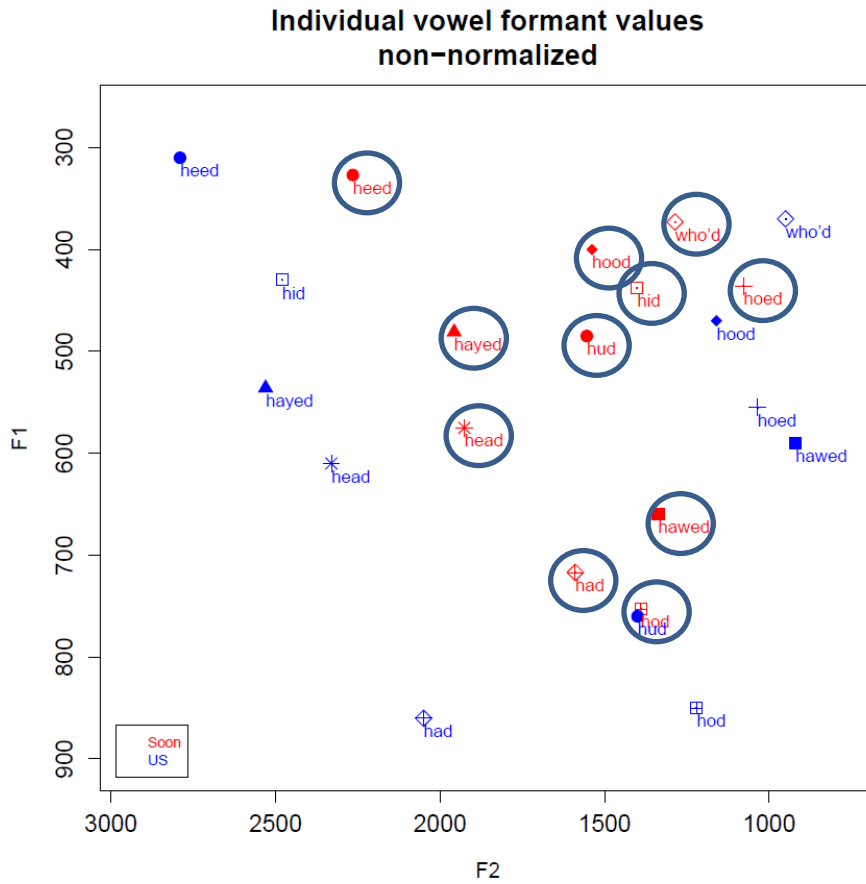
B. Vowel Bar graph





C. Normalization

Circled vowels are my vowels. Others are GAE.



3.0 Homograph Project

My expectation from the vowel project is to compare my pronunciation and GAE standard. I was hoping to see the similarities, but my vowels turned out to be a lot different from GAE. I noticed that not all Americans' pronunciation is exactly merged to GAE vowels. I tried to be natural to pronounce all the words. The biggest difference is among my vowels is [ɪ] in hid. If I look at the vowel [ɪ] in the vowel quadrant, mine is hard to say it is front vowel. It is located at the back. Another one is [ʊ] in hud. GAE vowel [ʊ] indicates that it is low vowel, but my [ʊ] is as high as [u] in hood.

4.0 Conclusion

Through this project, I've learned different pronunciations because of dialect, and foreign language influence. My F1 is normally similar, but located at a little back, and my F2 is a lot different than GAE vowel. I was surprised that foreign accent is vividly described on spectrograph. My pronunciation is so called Americanized, and sometimes some Americans say that I don't have a foreign accent. Through Pratt, I could notice the difference between my pronunciation and GAE. Another thing is that, Spectrograph also shows the regional differences. I can't notice the pronunciation difference between Americans from throughout America. But through spectrograph, people showed differences. Sometimes people have exactly same vowel pronunciation with GAE, but most of the time, vowel pronunciation of many native Americans are centralized like me.

