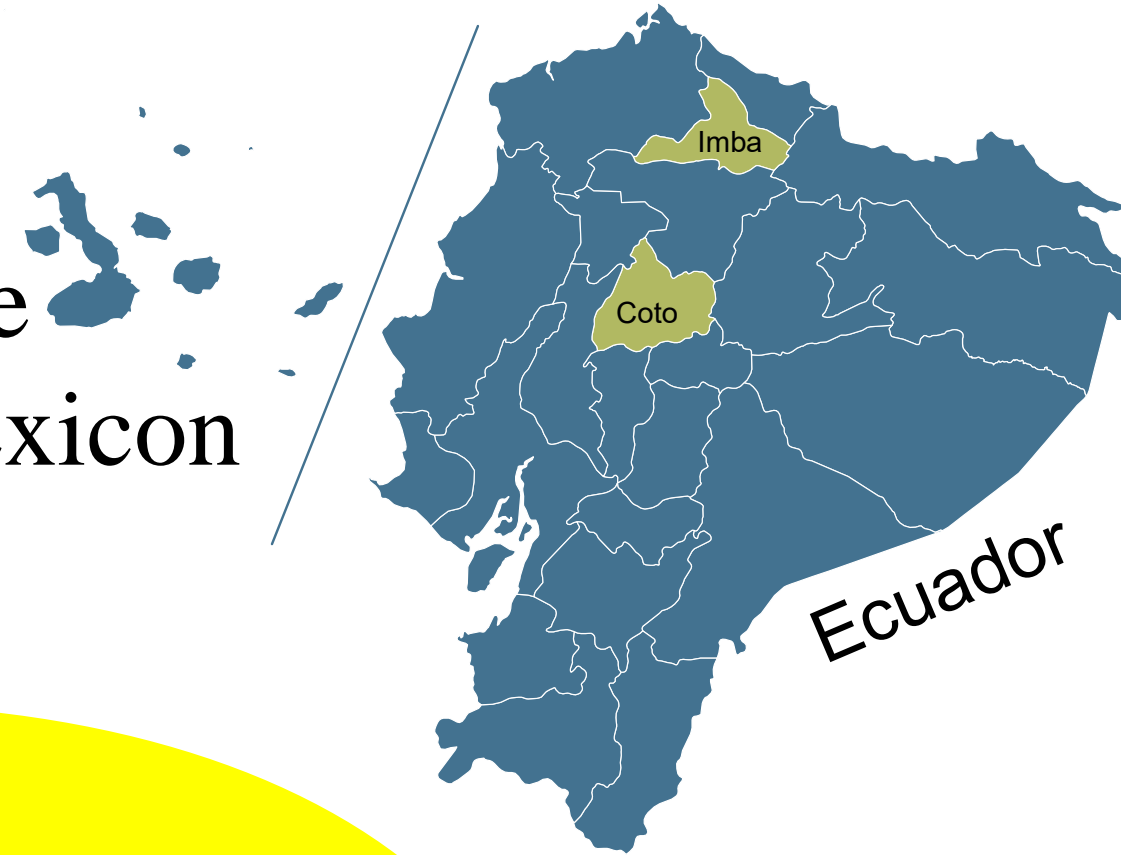


The status of the voiceless labial fricative in Media Lengua

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Media Lengua

- A Kichwa-Spanish contact language
- Kichwa morphosyntax – Spanish lexicon
- Spoken in the Ecuadorian Andes

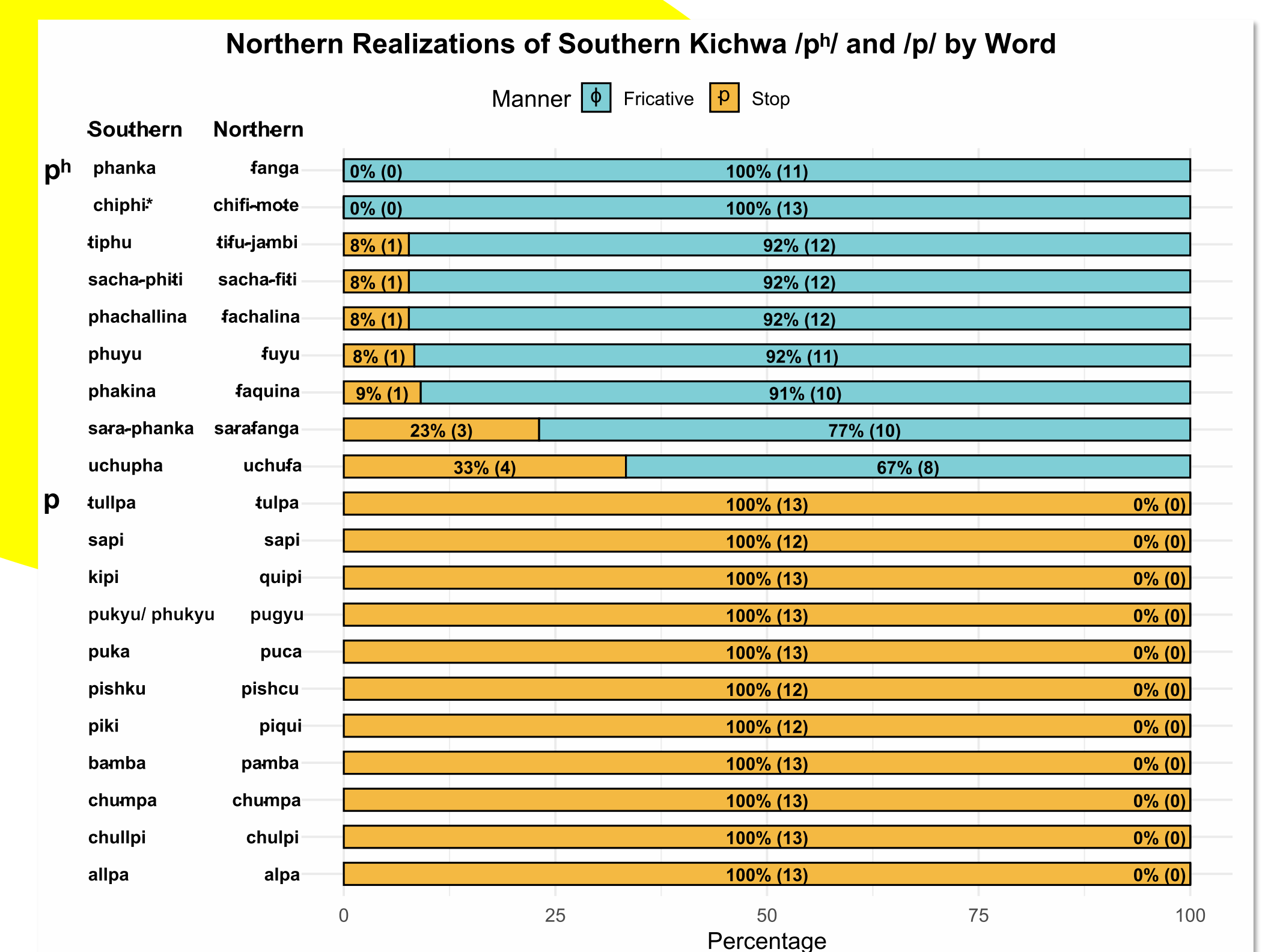
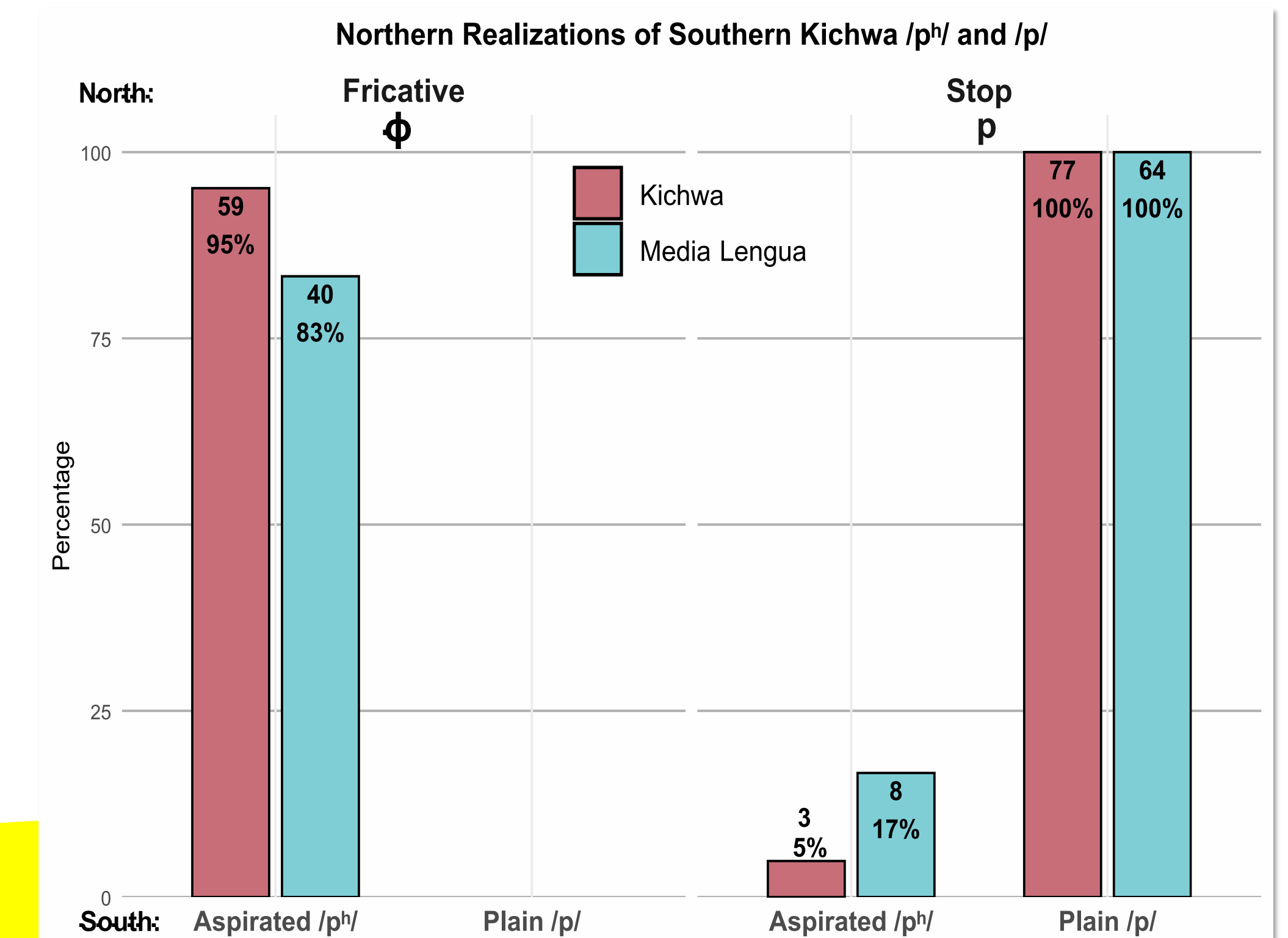
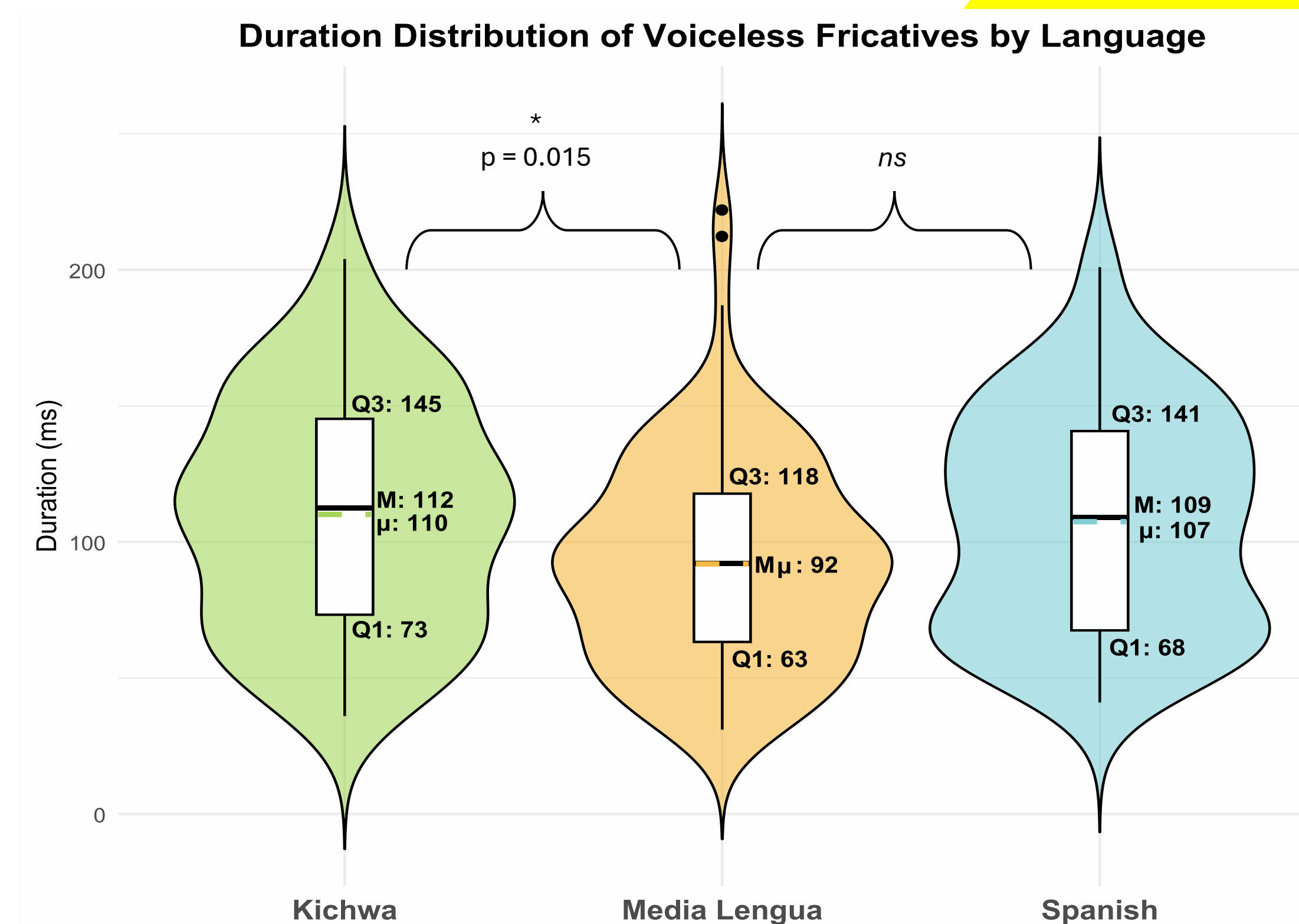
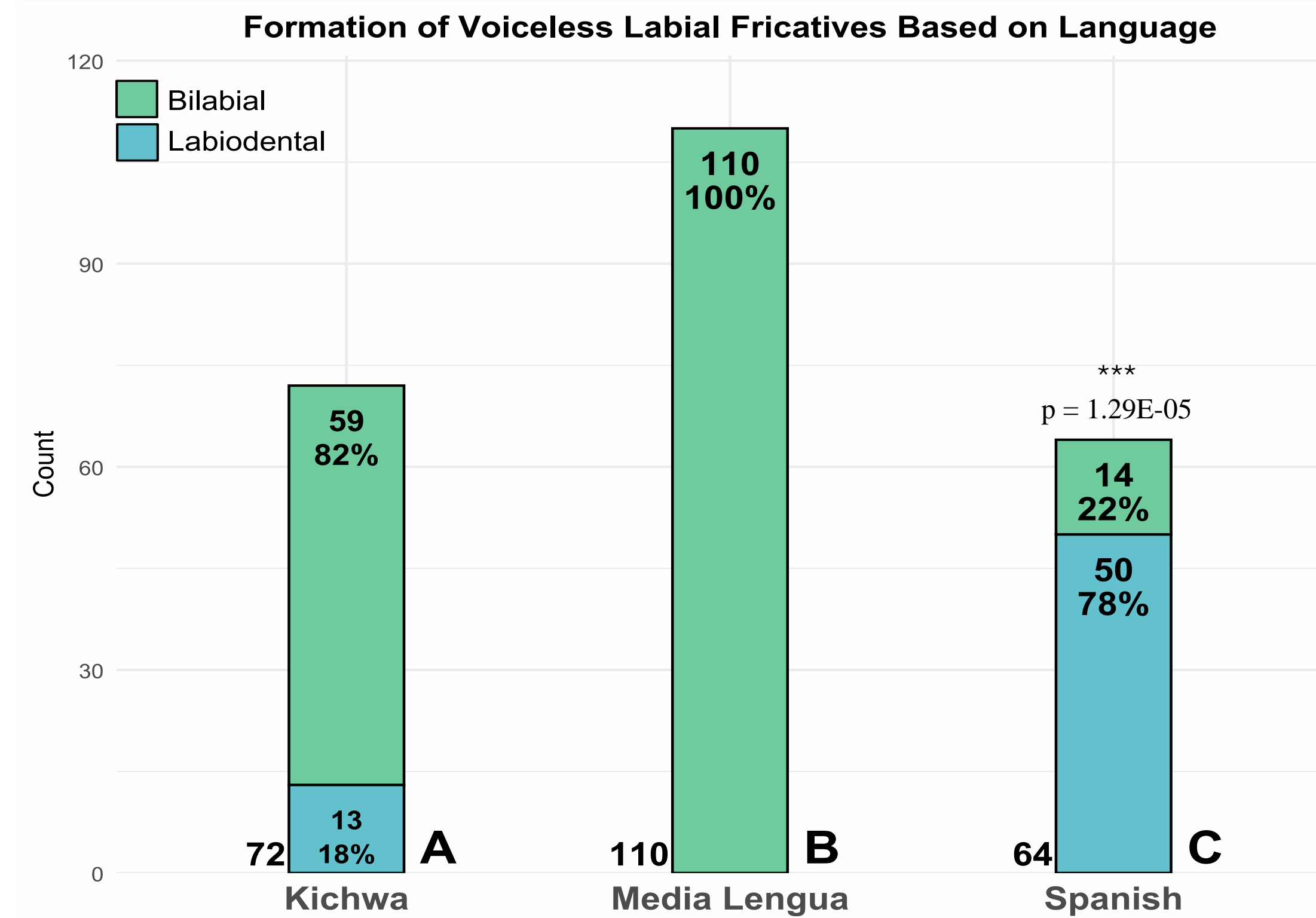
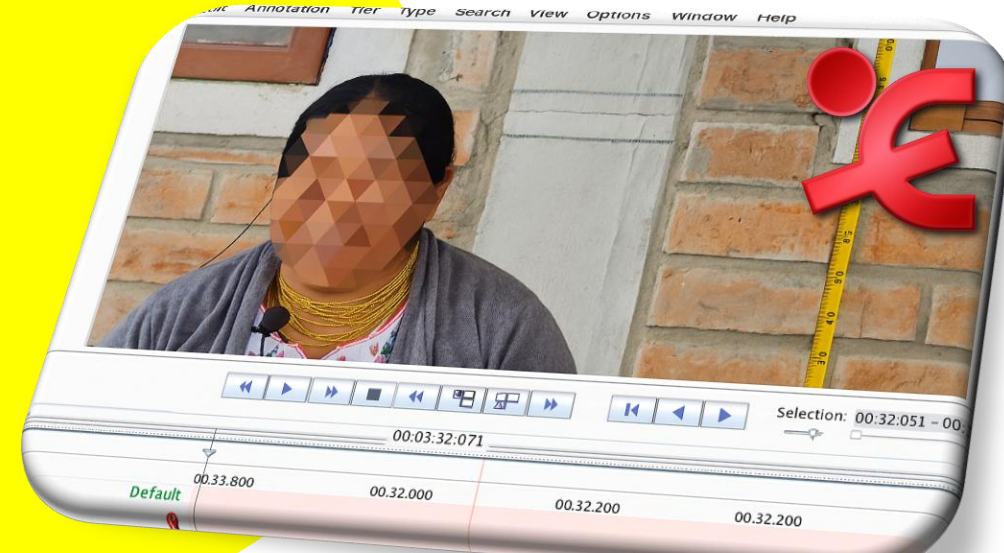
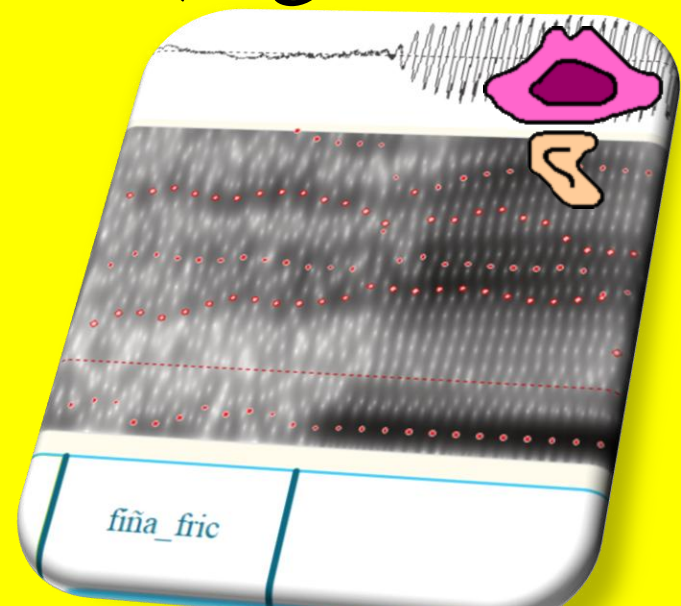
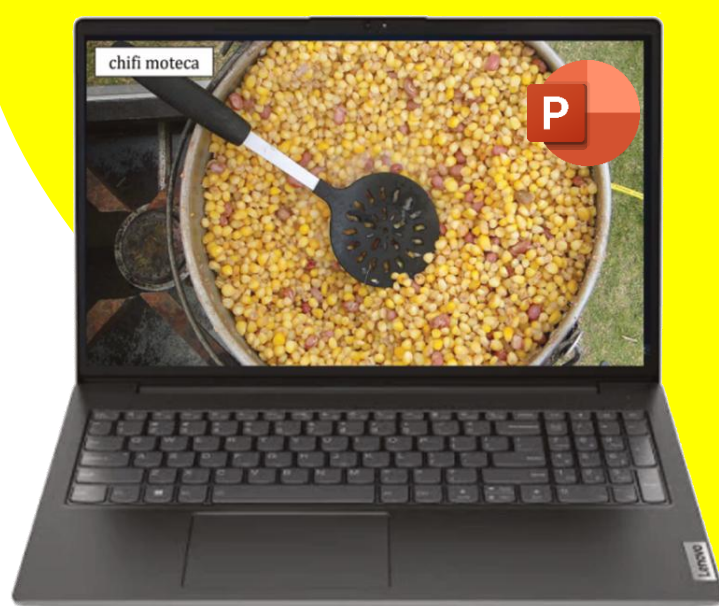


Research question

- Does Media Lengua pattern with Kichwa (/ɸ/) or Spanish (/f/) in its production of voiceless labial fricatives?
- What do regional differences between Southern and Northern Kichwa (particularly /p^h/ > //ɸ/) tell us about Media Lengua's phonological conservatism?

Methods

- 6 Media Lengua, 7 Kichwa 6 Spanish speakers
- Audio and video recordings
- Stimuli presented via PowerPoint
- Near-minimal pairs
fanka – pampa [#ɸanga – #pamba] ‘flatland – leaf’
fuyu – pukyu [#ɸuju – #pugju] ‘stream – cloud’
fiña – piki [#ɸina – #piki] ‘flea – angry’
- 624 total tokens (248 ML, 159 Kichwa, 217 Spanish)
- Visual inspection for bilabial [ɸ] vs. labiodental [f]
- Mixed-effects models (logistic for [ɸ] vs. [f], linear for duration)



Discussion

- Media Lengua categorically uses bilabial [ɸ], even in Spanish-origin words
- Labiodental [f] appears only in Kichwa and Spanish
- The /p^h/ → //ɸ// shift seen in Northern Kichwa is reflected in Media Lengua, but Media Lengua also shows more [p], possibly preserving older southern forms
- Fricative duration is longest in Media Lengua word-initially; Kichwa shows the opposite pattern

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