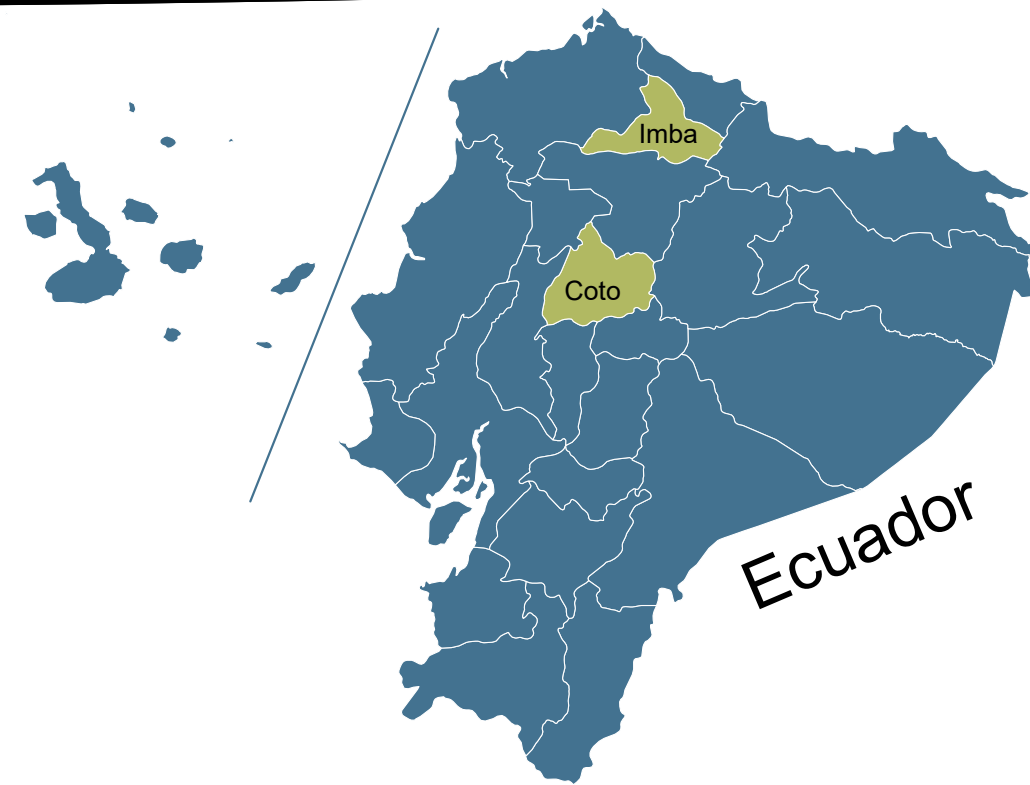




Media Lengua

- A Kichwa-Spanish mixed language spoken in Ecuador
- Kichwa morphosyntax – Spanish lexicon



Background

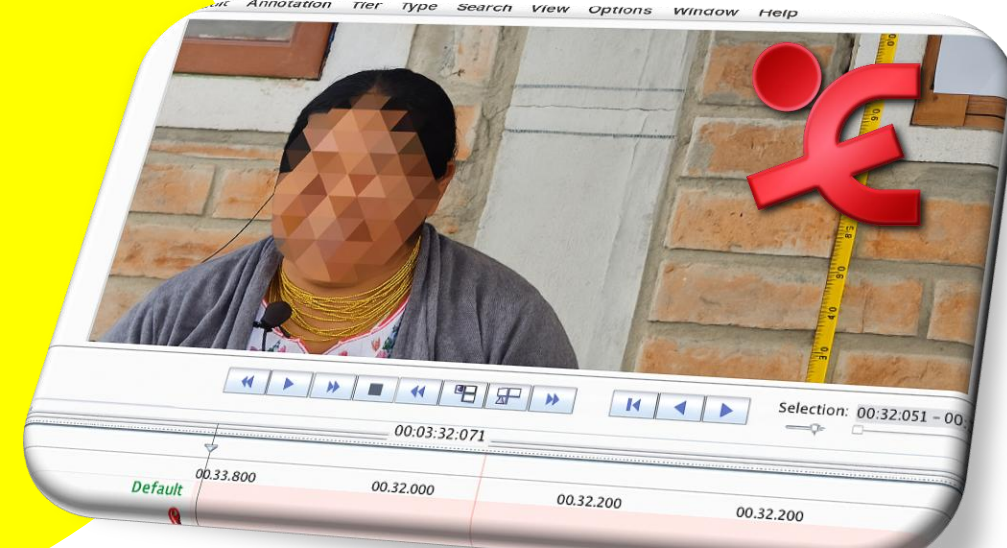
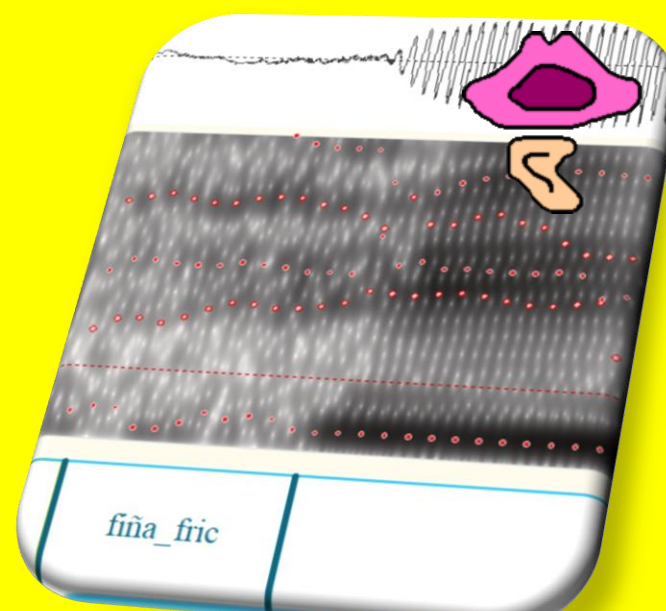
- Mixed languages tend to resolve segmental conflict by defaulting to the ancestral phonology with limited borrowings from the introduced language.
- Phonetically, mixed languages show complex nuances (overlap, overshoot).
- Media Lengua may preserve earlier Kichwa phonological patterns.

Research question

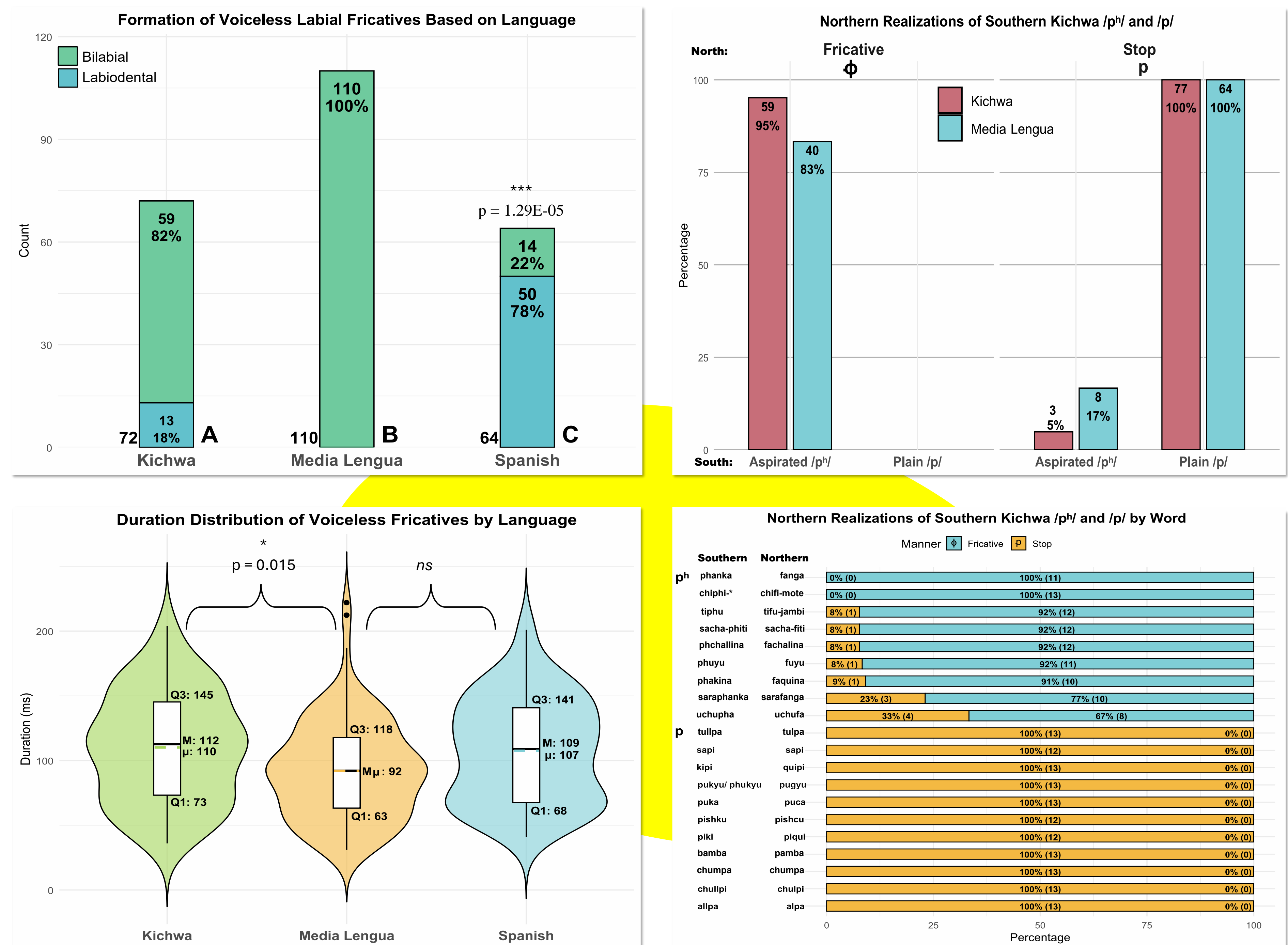
- Does Media Lengua pattern with Kichwa (/ɸ/) or Spanish (/f/) in its production of voiceless labial fricatives?
- What do regional differences between Southern and Northern Kichwa (particularly /p^h/ > //ɸ//) tell us about Media Lengua's phonological conservatism?

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’)
- Visual inspection of 624 total tokens (248 ML, 159 Kichwa, 217 Spanish)
- Mixed-effects models (logistic for [ɸ] vs. [f], linear for duration)



Results



Discussion

- Media Lengua categorically uses bilabial [ɸ], even in Spanish-origin words; labiodental [f] appears only in Kichwa (rare) and Spanish (common)
- Fricative duration is shortest in Media Lengua (ML longest in initial, Kichwa shortest).
- 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
- Another example of phonological material adapting to the ancestral language with phonetic nuances.

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