

Voice quality in contemporary Scotland

Using Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis to investigate LGBTQ+
people's understanding of their own use of voice quality

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Voice quality in Scotland

- **Voice quality:** Characteristic auditory colouring of a speaker's voice
(Abercrombie 1967)
- **Scotland:** Stuart-Smith 1999, Beck & Schaeffler 2015

Phonation



Male speakers
More creaky

Female speakers
More whispery

The project so far

How is sociophonetic variation in
phonation stratified according to:

- Age
- Gender
- Region



Smith et al. 2018

The present study

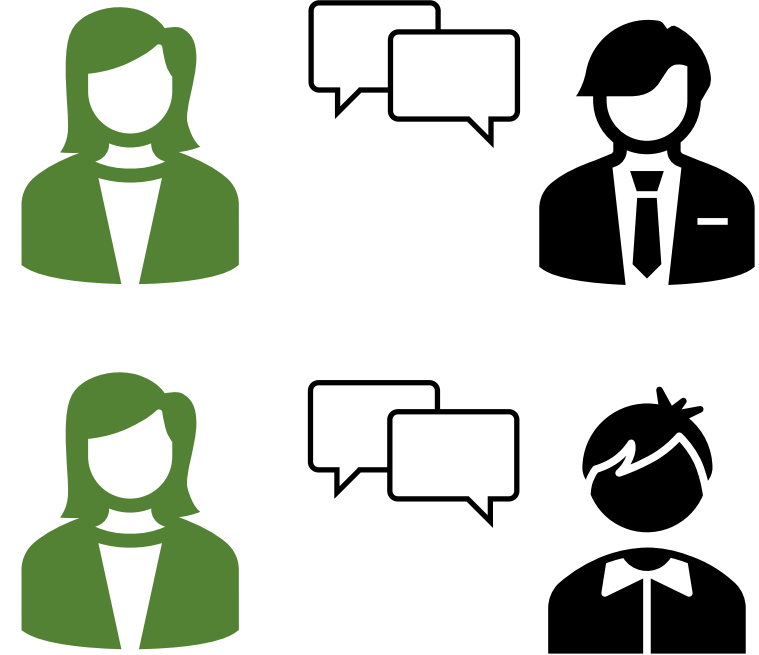
- Aim: Insight on **social meaning** of gender differences in phonation in Scotland
- **Vocal change** related to LGBTQ+ identity



See prev. research on phonation in LGBTQ+ speakers by Podesva 2007, Becker, Khan and Zimman 2017

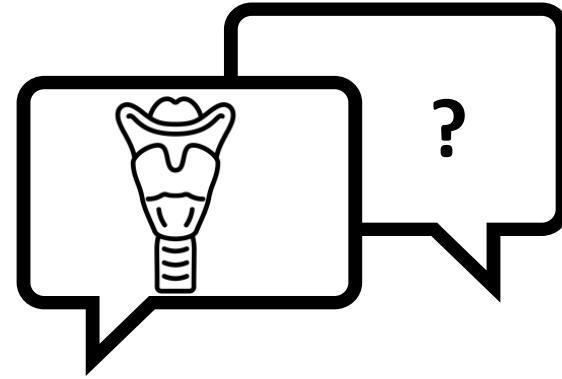
Research questions

- How do speakers going through vocal change related to their LGBTQ+ identity use phonation to navigate different conversational situations in their lives?



Research questions

- How do LGBTQ+ speakers understand their use of different phonation types and experience of vocal change?



of a phenomenon – a major life experience

Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis

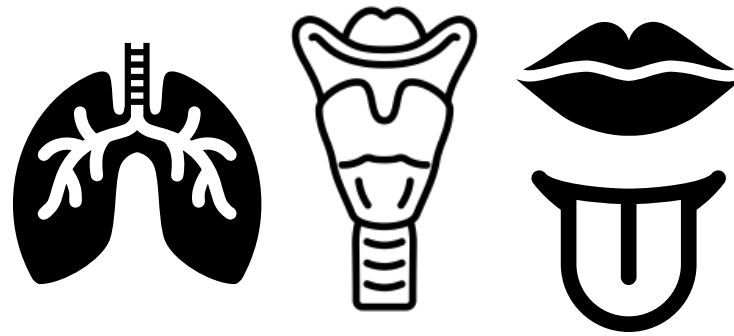
How someone makes sense

Approach to conducting
interviews and analysing
qualitative data

Why Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis?



Why Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis?



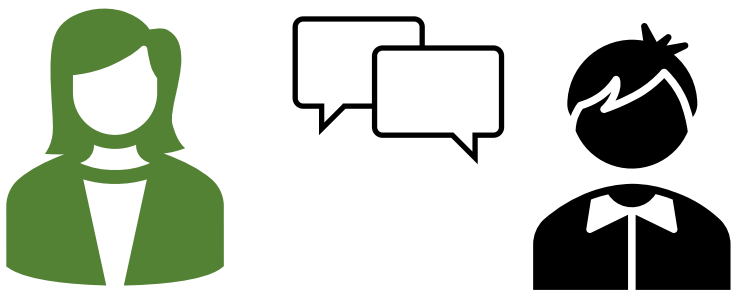
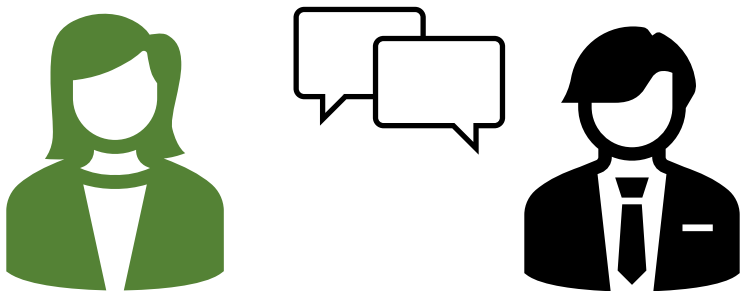
Embodiment

Participants

- Small number of participants who share a common life experience



Methods: Speech data

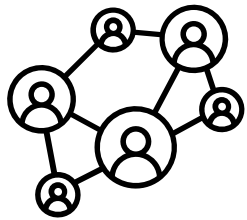


Methods: Qualitative interviews

- Semi-structured, open-ended questions, on topics such as:

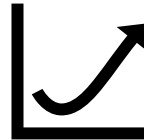


Accessing transition-
related vocal health
care

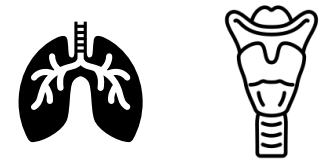
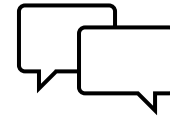


Voice & interpersonal
relationships

Experiences with their
voice changing



Individual instances
of style-shifting



Physical experience
of voice change

Thanks for listening!

Questions for you:

- I would love to hear about any linguistic, or specifically sociophonetic work that uses a phenomenological approach
- Shared life experience -> Should I aim for a more homogenous group?

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References

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Bonus slide: Precedent for IPA in linguistic research

- Some limited precedent for using IPA in linguistic research
 - Farr et al. 2018 migrant mothers use of language with children
 - Johnstone & Keisling 2008 – Not IPA, but phenomenological approach to how social meaning is attached to variants