

Using Praat Software in Teaching

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SLAT proseminar

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- Sequential language learning is hard
- Using technology in teaching pronunciation can be useful and effective in language classrooms
- There has been a movement toward using computer technology in order to teach oral skills (Anderson-Hsieh, 1992; 1994; 1994)
- CALL can focus on segments or suprasegmentals (Wilson, 2005 used it for vowel duration)

- Traditional approach
 - Teacher-centered
 - Students have passive role (i.e. sit and listen to the teacher)
 - Do exercises from book
 - Memorize important info to pass exam

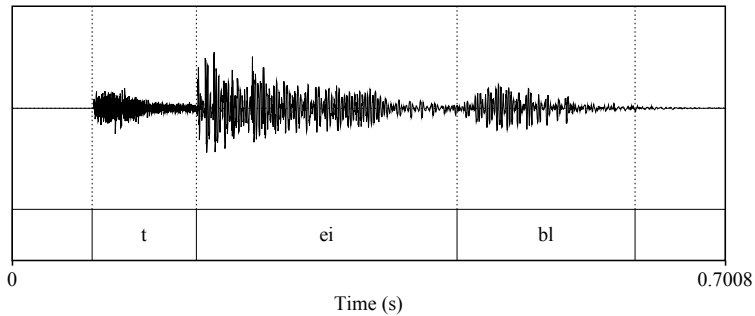
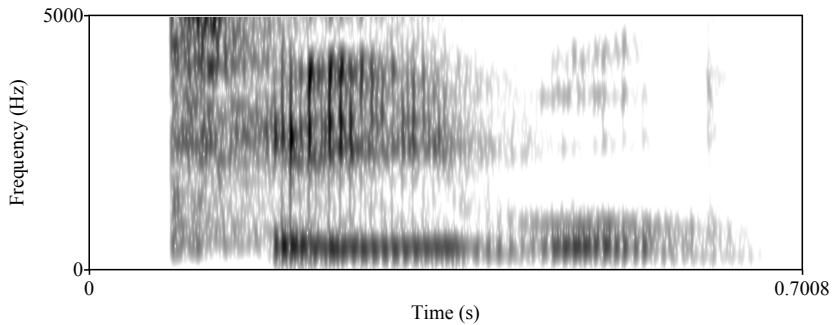
Spanish /t/ differs from English /t/ in POA and VOT

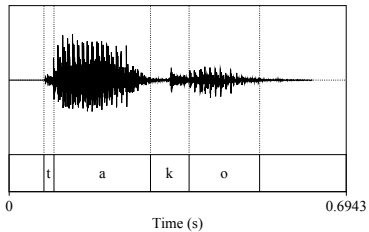
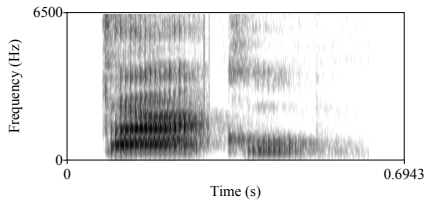
Spanish /t/ differs from English /t/ in POA and VOT

- POA (point of articulation): What does your tongue touch when you pronounce “t”?
 - Spanish /t/ is dental
 - English /t/ is alveolar

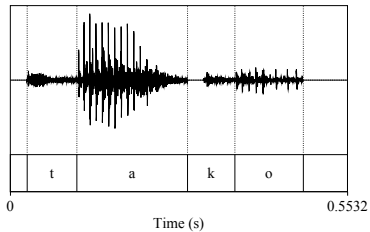
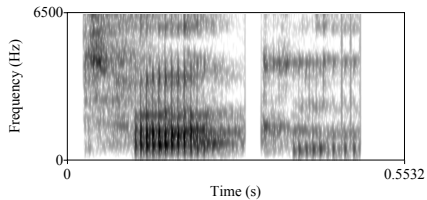
Spanish /t/ differs from English /t/ in POA and VOT

- VOT (voice-onset time): The difference in time between when a stop consonant is released and phonation begins.
 - It is the result of the coordination of gestures (the release the stop consonant and the vibration of the vocal folds)
 - VOT can be negative, 0, or positive





Spanish



English

VOT

- English /t/:
 - aspirated with positive VOT
 - POA is alveolar
- Spanish /t/:
 - non-aspirated with short-lag VOT
 - POA is dental
- L2 learners of Spanish have to adapt a dental POA and avoid aspiration
- L2 learners of English have to adapt an alveolar POA and aspirate

- Make a recording of yourself saying “taco” in English and in Spanish
- Practice changing the POA
- Try to avoid aspiration
- Examine the spectrogram of your production
- Measure your VOT

	Spanish /t/	English /t/
POA	Dental	Alveolar
VOT	0, short lag	Positive (aspiration)

- How did you do?

- Class projects
 - find a native speaker or an L2 learner Spanish
 - record them saying “taco” in English and Spanish
 - compare their VOTs
 - explain to them the POA of /t/ in English and Spanish
 - explain to them the role of aspiration in English and Spanish
 - rerecord them saying “taco” in English and Spanish
 - compare their VOTs
 - Write a 1 page reflection about the use of Praat to teach pronunciation
- Praat + moodle/poll anywhere