

Lab task (Demo)

This assignment a hands-on your develop your lab skills in phonetics. This short task involves a two-fold approach: first, gathering tokens from native speakers of the target languages; second recording two different native speakers of the same target languages. You need to review your notes and the readings for this assignment. Measuring Voice Onset Time (VOT) is easy in Praat, as it is just a duration measurement between two set points, the release of the stop and the start of voicing.

Part 1: In this lab, you will use Praat to measure the Voice Onset Time (VOT) of four stops [p, b, t, d] for three different languages (English, Spanish, and French).

1. Consult native speakers of the respective target languages so that they provide you with four words that start with the following stops [p, b, t, d]. The word should start with a stop and followed by a vowel.
2. Then, invite one native speaker of the each target languages to a recording session. Ask them to produce the elicited words from the first step.
3. Install Praat install on your computer.
4. Open the sound files in Praat (Open → Read from file).
5. Click “View & Edit” for the sound file.
6. Find the stop release.
7. Find the start of voicing.
8. Select the span between these two points.
9. Read the duration of the selection (in seconds) from the duration bar along the bottom of the Editor window OR
10. Editor → Query → Get selection length and read your selection in the info window.

Part 2:

1. Make a table that shows the language and the VOT type.
2. Plot each VOT on the time axis indicating the phoneme and language as shown below. Then, describe your observation of each VOT.

