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Dear Dr. Lynch,

I am pleased to submit to the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America the research paper entitled *An exploratory study of voicing-related differences in vowel duration as compensatory temporal adjustment in Italian and Polish* to be considered for review.

In this paper, I deal with the so-called 'voicing effect', by which vowels are longer when followed by a voiced consonant than when followed by a voiceless one. I show with results from an exploratory study of the voicing effect in Italian and Polish that the difference in duration is the consequence of two factors that characterise gestural organisation as measured from acoustics: (1) the duration of the interval between two consecutive consonant releases is not affected by the voicing of the second consonant, and (2) the difference in consonant closure durations between voiceless and voiced stops creates a compensatory adjustment in the duration of preceding vowels. These findings shed light on a long-standing debate about the source of the voicing effect, bringing support for a production account of temporal compensation in which the timing of the consonant closure in a temporally fixed interval determines the duration of vowels.

I believe this paper fits with the aims of the Journal, inasmuch as it discusses properties of speech production and it offers a model of gestural organisation based on acoustic data.

This manuscript has not been published and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. I have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

Kind regards,

Stefano Coretta