

Mid-year report 2017

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Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Previous research	1
1.2	Research hypothesis	1

1 Introduction

1.1 Previous research

The duration of vowels has been shown to be correlated with the presence vs. absence of voicing in the following consonant in a variety of languages. House & Fairbanks (1953) noticed that, in English, vowels followed by voiceless consonants are on average XXX ms shorter than vowels followed by voiced consonants. This phenomenon has been thus called the “voicing effect.” Other languages, like French, Spanish, Swedish, Arabic and Hindi, have been later found to show the voicing effect. While several languages are ...—although in different sizes and consistency—the voicing effect does not seem to be universal. For example, the duration of vowels in Polish is not affected by consonantal voicing.

1.2 Research hypothesis

References

House, Arthur S. & Grant Fairbanks. 1953. The influence of consonant environment upon the secondary acoustical characteristics of vowels. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 25(1). 105–113.