

Phonetic Exercises using Praat -3

Finnish length

Finnish contrasts both long and short vowels and consonants. Listen to the *muta* sound file. It consists of four contrasting lexical items that all have the same four sounds [muta]. They differ in terms of whether the first vowel is long or short and the medial consonant is long or short. Listen to them several times and then transcribe them. Then examine the sound waves and measure the duration of the [u] and [t] in each one. Which duration contrast has greater dispersion, short vs. long [u] or short vs. long [t]?

	[u]	[t]	
1. muta	_____	_____	'mud'
2. muta	_____	_____	'else'
3. muta	_____	_____	'but'
4. muta	_____	_____	'to change'

The second Finnish sound file contains *kansa* 'people' followed by *kanssa* 'together with'. Measure the durations of [an] and [s] in both words. It is commonly said that Finnish geminate consonants span a syllable boundary so that 'together with' would be parsed [kans.sa]. Do your measurements support this hypothesis? How?

Yoruba Tone*

Yoruba contrasts three tone levels. Drag your cursor across the vowel and then use the "Get Pitch" command (F5) under the dropdown Pitch menu to measure the average pitch of the following three verbs.

		Av F0	
bá	'meet'	_____	Hz
bā	'hide'	_____	
bà	'take'	_____	

The next set of three show these verbs preceded by the 3rd person pronoun *ó*. In one case there is an assimilatory effect of the tone of one syllable on the other. Which case is this? Is the assimilatory effect anticipatory or perseverative? Finally, these verbs were recorded as sets of three items. Do you see any effects of "list intonation"? What are they?

* Since this is a male voice, adjust your pitch settings to a range of 50-200 Hz.

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

24.901 Language and Its Structure I: Phonology
Fall 2010

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.