

Phasing and Recoverability: Laryngeal Complexity in Otomanguean Vowels

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Introduction

1. The timing (“phasing”) patterns among articulatory gestures typically optimize the salience acoustic cues, maximizing recoverability

{coronal stop, laryngeal abduction} ⇔ **t^h** (Kingston 1985, 1990)
2. Contrastive phasing patterns are normally maximally distinct from one another

{coronal stop, laryngeal abduction} ⇔ **t^h** and **h^t** (Silverman 1995, 1997)
3. The presence of a sub-optimal phasing pattern usually implies the presence of the optimal phasing pattern

{coronal stop, laryngeal abduction} **t^h** >> **h^t** (Silverman 1995, 1997)
4. Today's inquiry: “laryngeally complex vowels”

{vowel, laryngeal abduction, tone} **ha**⌈ >> **ah**⌈ >> **aha**
{vowel, laryngeal constriction, tone} **?a**⌈ >> **a?**⌈ >> **a?a**⌈
5. **laryngeally *simplex* class:**
Neither contrastive tone nor contrastive phonation
plain vowel (e.g., English): **a**
6. Contrastive tone, but no contrastive phonation
toned vowel (Mandarin, Maddieson 1984): **a**⌈
7. Contrastive phonation, but no contrastive tone
breathy vowel (Gujarati, Fischer-Jørgensen, 1970): **ᵛ**
creaky vowel (Sedang, Smith 1968): **ᵛ̤**

8. White Hmong (Lyman 1974, Smalley 1976, Huffman 1987, Ratliff 1992):

High	tau ⁵⁵	pumpkin
Rising	tau ³⁵	to dam up (water)
Low	tau ²²	axe
Mid (normal)	tau ³³	to be able
Falling (normal)	tau ⁴²	sp. of grass
"Creaky"	tau ³¹	bean
"Breathy"	tau ³²	to follow

Ratliff: For male speakers, the breathy tone is implemented as a low, whispered pitch fall: **V̥**³¹; For female speakers, the breathy tone is implemented as a high, whispered fall: **V̥**⁵³. Pitch is thus not the primary cue to the contrast.

Laryngeal Complexity in Otomanguean Vowels

10. Laryngeal complex vowels:

{V, hʔ, ɿ}	<u>Jalapa Mazatec:</u>		<u>Comaltepec Chinantec:</u>		<u>Copala Trique:</u>	
	abduction:	constriction:	abduction:	constriction:	abduction:	constriction:
optimal	haɿ	ʔaɿ	haɿ	ʔaɿ	haɿ -loans only-	ʔaɿ
maximally distinct	ah	aʔɿ	ahɿ	aʔɿ	ahɿ	aʔɿ
again maximally distinct	ahaɿ	aʔaɿ	ahaɿ	aʔaɿ	ahaɿ	aʔaɿ

10. **Jalapa Mazatec** (Pike and Pike 1947, Kirk 1966, Bull 1983, 1984, Steriade 1992, Silverman 1994a, Kirk, Ladefoged, and Ladefoged 1993, Silverman, Blankenship, Kirk, and Ladefoged 1995):

Jalapa Mazatec segment inventory (Silverman, Blankenship, Kirk, and Ladefoged 1995):

(p)	t	ts	tʃ	k	i	u
(p ^h)	t ^h	ts ^h	tʃ ^h	k ^h		o
(^m b)	ⁿ d	ⁿ dz	ⁿ dʒ	ⁿ g	æ	a
	s		ʃ			
m	n		ɲ	ŋ		
	(l)					
w		j				

(parenthesized segments are limited to loanwords)

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- Figure 1 displays four spectrograms arranged in a 2x2 grid. The top row shows spectrograms for the word 'hard', and the bottom row shows spectrograms for the phrase 'he wants'. The left column contains spectrograms with a 1000 Hz scale, while the right column contains spectrograms with a 2000 Hz scale. Each spectrogram shows frequency (vertical axis) over time (horizontal axis). The 'hard' spectrograms show a prominent formant structure, while the 'he wants' spectrograms show a more complex, multi-formant structure.

- | {V, hʔ, ɰ} | <u>Jalapa Mazatec:</u> | |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| | abduction: | constriction: |
| optimal | haɰ | ʔaɰ |
| maximally distinct | ah | aʔɰ |

again maximally distinct	ahaŋ	aʔaŋ
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24. **Comaltepec Chinantec** (Anderson 1989, 1990, Anderson, Martinez, and Pace 1990, Silverman 1994a,b, 1995):

Comaltepec segment inventory:

p	t	tʃ	k	i	ɨ	u
ᵐb	ᵐd	ᵐdʒ	ᵑg	e	ʌ	o
(f)	s	(ʃ)	(ʂ)	æ		a
		z̥				
m	n		ŋ			
	l					
		j	w			

h,ʔ

(Parenthesized forms are major allophonic or free variants)

25. tones:

L	hi̯	book
H	lloʔŋ	pretty
M	ᵐdʒœ̯i̯	earthen jar
LM	ᵑgiŋʔ̩	swing
LH	li̯	tepejilote palm shoot

26. laryngeals:

hi̯	book	ʔœ̯i̯	papaya
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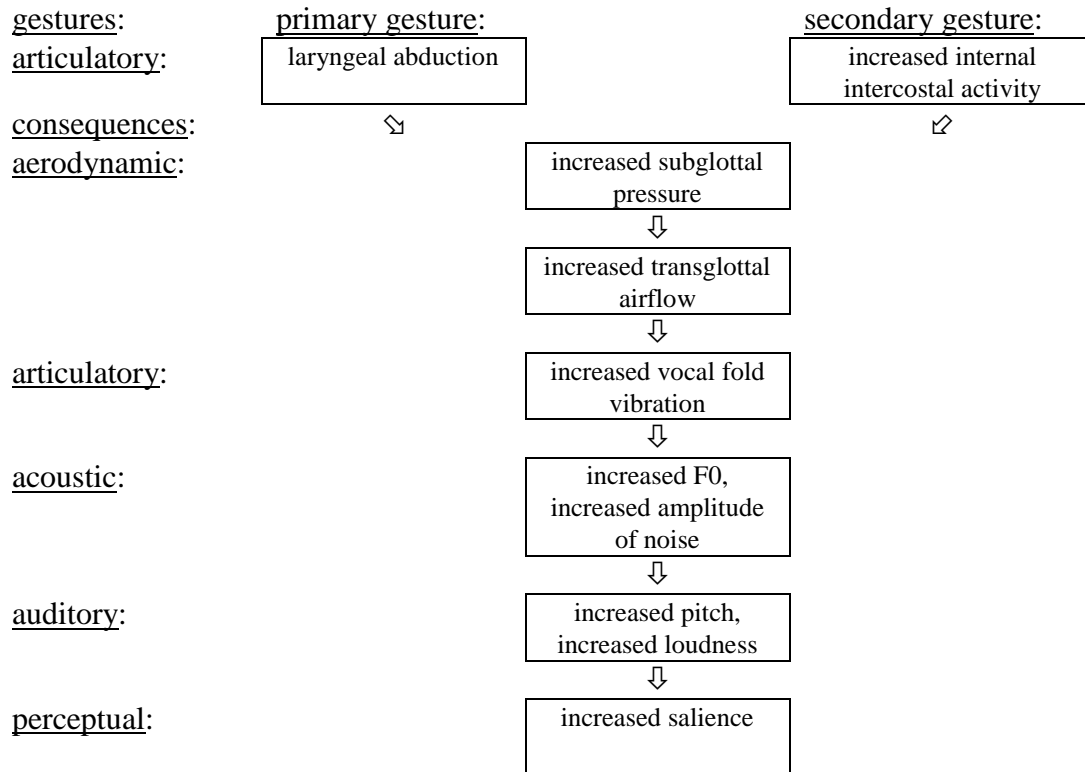
27. toned vowels:

ᵑgwo̯i̯	good (i)
heʔ̩	frog

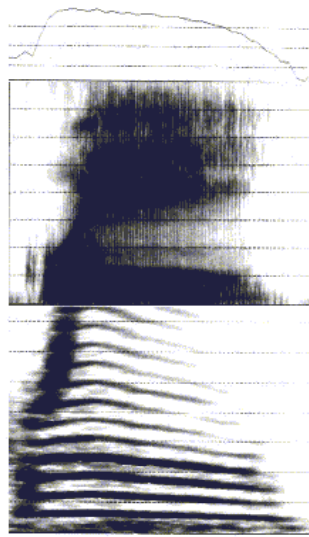
toned with post-vocalic aspiration:

ᵑgjʌŋ̥i̯	hand
lih̥ŋ	flower

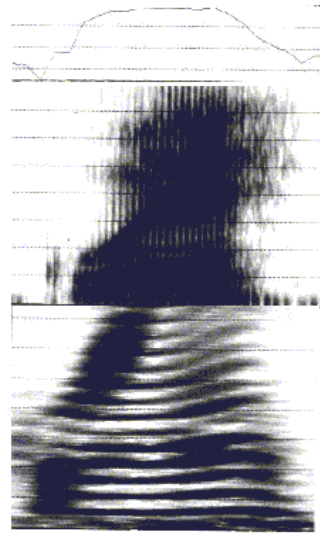
28. "Ballistic syllables"; syllables with post-vocalic aspiration--consequences for subglottal pressure and pitch:



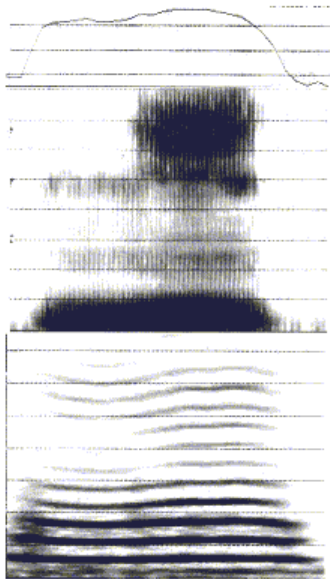
29. Spectrograms of controlled and ballistic syllables in Comaltepec Chinantec:



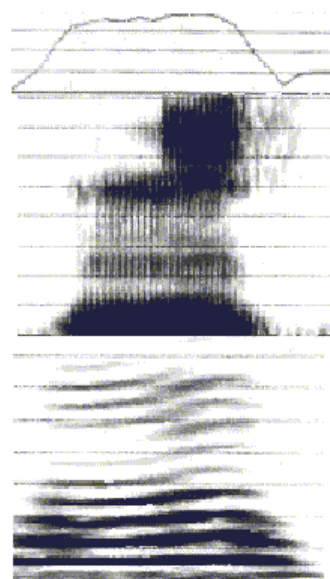
kwe:ɬ
long



(mi-) kweɪh
arm



niɿ
face



niɪhɬ
sit!

30. summary:

{V, hʔ, ɲ}	<u>Jalapa Mazatec:</u>		<u>Comaltepec Chinantec:</u>	
	abduction:	constriction:	abduction:	constriction:
optimal	haɭ	ʔaɭ	haɭ	ʔaɭ
maximally distinct	ah	aʔɭ	ahɭ	aʔɭ
again maximally distinct	ahaɭ	aʔaɭ	ahaɭ	aʔaɭ

31. **Trique** (Longacre 1952, 1957, 1959, Hollenbach 1978):

San Juan Copala Trique segment inventory:

(p) t k i i u
 (b) d g e o
 tʃ cç ʈʂ a
 s ʃ ʂ
 z ʒ
 r
 m n
 l
 j w
 ʔ, h

(parenthesized segments are limited to loanwords)

32. tones: **21, 32, 3, 34, 35, 4, 5, 53** (where **1** is highest, **5** is lowest)

33. laryngeals may precede the toned vowel.

ʔũ	nine	-loans only- a²hu³	garlic
ʔu⁵ʔuɾ⁵	five	hu³lja³	Julia
ʔweʔe⁵	ice, frost	gawwe³²	coffee
ʔni⁵h⁵	inside of		

34. Only the laryngeals (ʔ and h) may close syllables, and only final syllables may be closed.

wa²⁵	the right	ʒu²kwah¹	to be twisted
ja²³⁴	teeth	jah³	ashes
ni⁵ka²⁵	short	rah²¹	to grind

35. Open final syllables are long

ma⁴re¹³	red
gu³na²³	to remain
ra³?a³	hand
ri³o⁴³	trough, manger

36. Final vowels may be laryngeally "interrupted," in which **h** or **ʔ** intrude on the vowel (i.e., **VhV**, **VʔV**).

ga³tu⁴?u³	incense-burner
ri³u⁵hu³	hollow reed
na³?a⁴ha³	conversation

37. Six reasons to interpret interrupted vowels as laryngeal gestures phased to interrupt a single vocalic gesture, rather than one involving two distinct vowel gestures

- a. Interrupted forms do not undergo final lengthening

<u>interrupted vowel:</u>		<u>true V-ʔ-V sequence:</u>	
we³?e³	house	we³?e²	beautiful
ja³ha³	flower	da³?a³⁴	cord, root
na³ki⁴hi³	atole	?u⁵?u⁵	five
jo³?o³	year	jo³?o⁵³	the gummy deposit made by smoke from a wood fire

- b. Interrupted forms lose their second vocalic component in phrasal contexts

ja³ha³	but	ja³h zi³ŋa²	nasturtiums
jo³?o³	but	jo³? ga³ci²³	the past year
naki⁴hi³	but	naki⁴h ru⁴ne⁴³	bean-atole

This elision is not reported for true **V-ʔ-V** sequences

- c. Interrupted vowels often appear in otherwise canonical bisyllabic words, whereas true trisyllabic words are quite rare

na⁴ki³hi³	atole	ga³u⁴?u³	incense burner
gi³?ja⁴ha³	holy day, festival	re³ka⁴?a³	stick
na²ni⁵hi⁴	open	re³ke⁴?e³	splinter

da³ku⁵hu⁴

ascent

- d. Tonal sequences occurring on interrupted forms are limited to those which occur on single vowels
- e. Voiceless obstruents and "fortis" nasal consonants may occur before interrupted sequences. Elsewhere, these consonants are limited to word-final syllables. If interrupted vowels are single nuclei, then a strong generalization may be made regarding the distribution of voiceless and fortis consonants: they are limited to final syllables.
- f. Interrupted vowels always possess but a single vowel quality, whereas true sequences may possess two vowel qualities (reported in Longacre 1957, no examples given)

38. summary:

{V, hʔ, ɿ}	<u>Jalapa Mazatec:</u>		<u>Comaltepec Chinantec:</u>		<u>Copala Trique:</u>	
	abduction:	constriction:	abduction:	constriction:	abduction:	constriction:
optimal	haɿ	ʔaɿ	haɿ	ʔaɿ	haɿ -loans only-	ʔaɿ
maximally distinct	ah	aʔɿ	ahɿ	aʔɿ	ahɿ	aʔɿ
again maximally distinct	ahaɿ	aʔaɿ	ahaɿ	aʔaɿ	ahaɿ	aʔaɿ

10. Question: What might be the acoustic and articulatory consequences of implementing a laryngeally complex vowel?

Sufficient acoustic discriminability

11. Acoustics of laryngeally complex vowels:

a. <u>Toned vowels:</u> F0 may be recovered from the pulse period the frequency range between 400 and 1000 Hz. is the most important for pitch perception (Ritsma 1967, Remez and Rubin 1984, 1993).	b. <u>Breathy vowels:</u> The acoustic signal possesses harmonics and noise, with weakening of harmonics above H1, and increased bandwidth of surviving harmonics Kirk, Ladefoged, and Ladefoged (1993:445): "The breathy vowel [in Jalapa Mazatec] is characterized by an onset of indiscernible pulses."	c. <u>Creaky vowels:</u> when a pulse period varies, or jitters, by more than 10%, a stable pitch is not reliably discernible (Rosenberg 1966 Cardozo and Ritsma 1968)
<u>Toned Vowel</u>	<u>Breathy Toned Vowel</u>	<u>Creaky Toned Vowel</u>

Formant	Harmonic	Frequency	Formant	Harmonic	Frequency	Formant	Harmonic	Frequency

	H9	1125		H9	1125↕		H9	1125↑↓↑↓
	H8	1000		H8	1000↕		H8	1000↑↓↑↓
	H7	875		H7	875↕		H7	875↑↓↑↓
	H6	750		H6	750↕		H6	750↑↓↑↓
F1	H5	625	F1	H5	625↕	F1	H5	500↑↓↑↓
	H4	500		H4	500↕		H4	375↑↓↑↓
	H3	375		H3	375↕		H3	375↑↓↑↓
	H2	250		H2	250↕		H2	250↑↓↑↓
	H1	125		H1	125↕		H1	125↑↓↑↓

12. Languages which possess both contrastive tone and contrastive non-modal phonation (breathiness/creakiness) such as Mazatec, Chinantec, and Trique, may sequence their tonal and non-modal phonatory gestures, so that both tone and phonation are recoverable.

13. **Articulation of laryngeally complex vowels:**

Sufficient Articulatory Compatability

tone with breathy phonation

	ʋ̤	ʋ̥
vocal fold tension:	higher: ✓	higher:
	lower: ✓	lower: ✓
glottal aperture:	higher: ✓	higher: ✓
	lower:	lower: ✓
intercostal flexion:	higher: ✓	higher: ✓
	lower:	lower: ✓
larynx height:	higher: ✓	higher:
	lower: ✓	lower: ✓

14. summary:
attempting to reach a particular pitch target and a breathy target simultaneously involves conflicting articulatory demands

15. Tone with creaky phonation:

	V̥	V̥
vocal fold tension:	higher: ✓	higher: ✓
	lower:	lower: ✓
glottal aperture:	higher: ✓	higher:
	lower: ✓	lower: ✓
intercostal flexion:	higher: ✓	higher: ✓
	lower:	lower: ✓
larynx height:	higher: ✓	higher: ✓
	lower:	lower: ✓

16. summary: Attempting to reach a particular pitch target and a creaky target simultaneously involves conflicting articulatory demands
17. Question: given these acoustic and articulatory incompatibilities, what are the consequences for laryngeally complex vowels?
42. Auditory phonetics (Bladon 1986):
- a. **On/off response asymmetry**: spectral changes whose response in the auditory nerve is predominantly an onset of firing are much more perceptually salient than those producing an offset (Tyler, Summerfield, Wood, and Fernandes 1982).

CV >> VC

- b. **Short-term adaptation**: after a rapid onset of auditory nerve discharge at a particular frequency, there is a decay to a moderate level of discharge, even though the same speech sound is continuing to be produced (Delgutte 1982).

V >> V̥ >>> V̥̥

43. generalization: acoustic signals that involve *abrupt increases in acoustic energy* trigger maximal auditory nerve response
58. **Conclusions**:
- A functional link may be established between recoverability and markedness
 - In laryngeally complex vowels, tone and phonation are phased away from each other, so that all contrasts are recoverable
 - The more contrastive phasing patterns added, the more marked (the less recoverable) the added patterns are, but they remain optimally distinct from each other

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