Different phonological and phonetic viewpoint to Lithuanian affricates

Urbanavičienė J.

Research Center of the Standard Language, Institute of the Lithuanian Language, Vilnius, Lithuania

jolita.urb@gmail.com

The affricates in Lithuanian language (/dz, dz/, ts, tsı, dʒ, dʒı tjı, tjı/) are composite sounds, merging sequences of plosive and fricative elements. Decomposition of affricates into sequences of consonants (of the type /t/ + /ʃ/, /d/ + /ʒ/) would complicate the syllabic structure of Lithuanian language and its medial consonant clusters. Although in auditory terms affricate is treated as one phoneme, in affricates the phases of plosion and friction can be differentiated. In this presentation monophonemic phonological interpretation and two acoustic cues - spectral peak's frequency and relative intensity - obtained for the affricates of Lithuanian language will be analysed. The aim of this presentation is to research the affricates in order to determine the essential spectral differences and the effect of palatalization, voicing, manner and place of articulation, as well as the effect of speaker's gender.

The recording material consists of isolated CVC syllables pronounced in zero context by Lithuanian native speakers (males and females). Data processing was performed using the software PRAAT, MS EXCEL and SPSS. The results indicate that spectral peak’s frequency displays the effect of palatalization, manner and place of articulation, as well as the effect of speaker’s gender. The results also show the correlation between relative intensity and voicing: the values obtained for the voiced affricates are higher in comparison to their voiceless counterparts.

Keywords: Lithuanian language, affricates, experimental phonetics.