

INFLUENCE OF USE OF REFERENCE SAMPLES DURING AUDITORY PERCEPTUAL RATINGS OF PHARYNGEAL FRICATIVE AND PHARYNGEAL STOP

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Objectives: To compare raters' agreement during auditory-perceptual identification of pharyngeal fricative (PF) and pharyngeal stop (PS) between the conditions without and with use of reference sample (RS). **Methods:** A total of 54 phrases were recorded using five fricative (/f/, /v/, /z/, /ʃ/, /ʒ/) and one plosive /k/ sounds as speech stimuli. The recordings were rated by 9 evaluators grouped according to their experience in the identification of PF and PS: G1 included three students; G2 included three newly graduated Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs); and G3 included three experienced SLPs. Raters' task was to identify place of sound production with attention to presence or absence of PF and PS as produced by speakers with history of cleft palate. Interrater's agreement were established and compared between conditions with and without RS and between groups. **Results:** Mean Kappa values for G1 increased from regular (K=0.34) without RS to almost perfect (K = 0.97) with RS; for G2 agreement increased from substantial (K = 0.67) to almost perfect (K = 0.96); for G3 agreement was almost perfect in both conditions (K=0.90 and K=0.91). ANOVA indicated that there was a significant difference in mean raters' agreement between the conditions without and with RS for all sounds (/f/=p<0.001; /v/=p=0.006; /z/=p=0.014; /ʃ/=p=0.022; /ʒ/=p=0.012; /k/=p=0.001). **Conclusion:** The findings suggest that raters' agreement during identification of PF and PS increased significantly with the access to RS particularly for raters without experience with auditory perceptual identification of pharyngeal fricative (PF) and the pharyngeal stop (PS).