

Sounds don't always sound the same

Friederike Fischer

Sounds do not always sound the same. We know that, for example in English, /l/ is realized differently in relation to where it occurs in a syllable. In recent years, research on phonetic gestures has been systematically analysing how factors such as voicing, place of articulation and manner of articulation of adjacent consonants and vowels influence the realization of a sound. Electromagnetic articulometry recordings show how exactly sounds are articulated and can thus be analysed for clues. The results are complex and sometimes puzzling. I am going to present findings on Spanish consonant clusters, in particular, how the single consonants change in terms of voice onset time, length and overlap to other sounds in relation to voicing and place of articulation of other sounds in the syllable.