From ʒeísmo to ʃeísmo in Uruguayan Speakers

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Introduction

Rioplatense Spanish: classification that uses urban centers situated around de Plate River as a reference (Correo and Rebollo 2012)

Lleísmo: distinction exists in pronunciation of "y" and "ll" (Hualde 2009)

Yeísmo: occurs when there is a fusion of the phonemes /ʎ/ and /ʝ/ into /ʝ/ (Seminar and Kabatek 2009: 3)

ʒeísmo: Variation of yeísmo that has been found throughout generations in Buenos Aires
(Fontanella de Weinberg 1979; Wolf and Jiménez 1979; Chang 2008; Seminar and Kabatek 2009)

ʃeísmo: Variation of yeísmo that has been found more presently and more frequently in the younger generations of people of Buenos Aires
(Fontanella de Weinberg 1979; Wolf and Jiménez 1979; Chang 2008; Seminar and Kabatek 2009)

Calló and *cayó* are pronounced the same way: [ka-'ʒo] or [ka-'ʃo]
(Penny 2000)

Chang (2008) Study

- 11 participants from Buenos Aires read *Todo Mafalda* comic strips
- Elders → voiced allophones Youngest → voiceless allophones almost exclusively Middle Aged → varied results
- Although generational differences exists, there are no differences in gender in generations, so the change is complete (Cameron 2011)

Table 2. Acoustic and perceptual data, all speakers

Speaker	*% [ʃ] usage*	*Avg. % vcls.*	*Intensity(C/V$_1$)*	*Intensity(C/V$_2$)*
F1	100.0	85.7	0.89	0.89
F2	95.1	83.7	0.81	0.83
F3	100.0	91.9	0.84	0.85
F4	4.9	7.3	0.91	0.90
F5	24.4	21.9	0.85	0.87
M1	100.0	87.2	0.80	0.81
M2	95.1	84.3	0.82	0.81
M3	100.0	85.5	0.84	0.83
M4	60.0	53.7	0.84	0.84
M5	97.6	85.2	0.75	0.75
M6	0.0	0.0	0.93	0.96

Research Questions

1. Which social factors affect the production of voiced and voiceless fricatives in the speech of the Uruguayan participants?
2. How do the present study's results compare to Chang (2008)?

Methodology

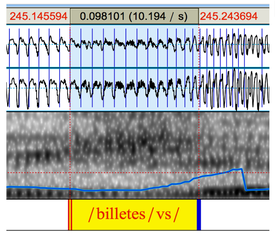
24 participants
- 10 males
- 14 females

Ages between 24-86

Read 8 pages of *Todo Mafalda*

		ADULT				MIDDLE				YOUNG	
A1	M	AMWGR	1931	M1	F	MFBST	1968	J1	F	JFWAG	1987
A2	F	AFWAR	1940	M2	M	MMBJC	1972	J2	F	JFBJN	1989
A3	M	AMWSP	1950	M3	M	MMWGI	1974	J3	F	JFWSB	1989
A4	M	AMBOA	1951	M4	F	MFBPR	1981	J4	M	JMBJI	1990
A5	F	AFWCS	1952	M5	F	MFBIN	1982	J5	M	JMWSG	1990
A6	F	AFBMI	1955	M6	M	MMWSP	1982	J6	M	JMWMG	1991
A7	F	AFBJP	1960	M7	F	MFBPI	1983	J7	F	JFWMN	1993
A8	F	AFBSC	1963	M8	F	MFWLY	1984				
				M9	M	MMWDV	1985				
		3 M 5 F				4 M 5 F				3 M 4 F	

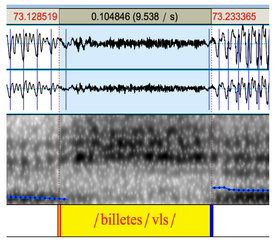
Produced between 65 - 75 tokens each
⇒ 1628 in total



Mixed Effects Linear Regression model

Speaker – random factor

LVS - Language Variation Suite

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Fixed effects:
                          Estimate Std. Error        df t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept)               0.515705   0.076827 24.270000   6.713 5.73e-07 ***
GENDERM                  -0.202928   0.069284 18.930000  -2.929  0.00864 **
AGE.GROUPJ                0.328759   0.088170 18.970000   3.729  0.00143 **
AGE.GROUPM                0.173799   0.081899 18.970000   2.122  0.04722 *
RESIDENCENueva Helvecia -0.007698   0.080595 18.870000  -0.096  0.92492
Word.Positionmedial     -0.025893   0.033398 48.770000  -0.775  0.44192
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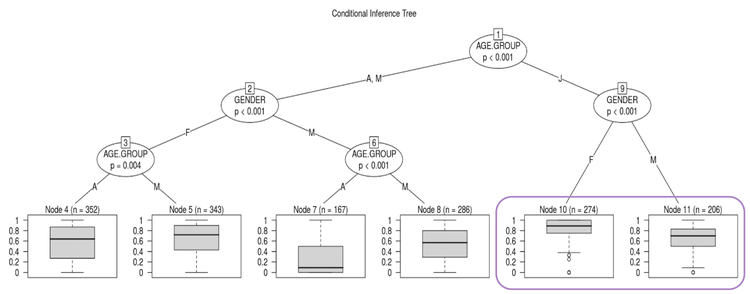
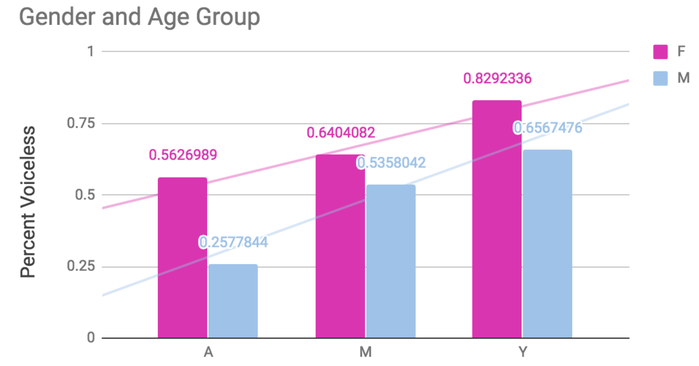
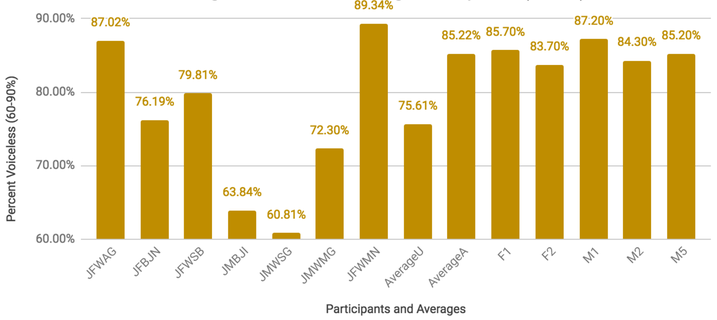
Results



The difference in gender in the youngest generation (also seen in the Fixed Effects results) show that the change has **NOT** been completed in the Uruguayan speakers, differing from Chang's (2008) results.

Conclusions





Uruguay and Argentina dialects are not identical. When it comes to the change in process from zheísmo to sheísmo, Argentina is currently at a more advanced linguistic stage, as Uruguayan participants still show significant social effects among younger speakers.

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