

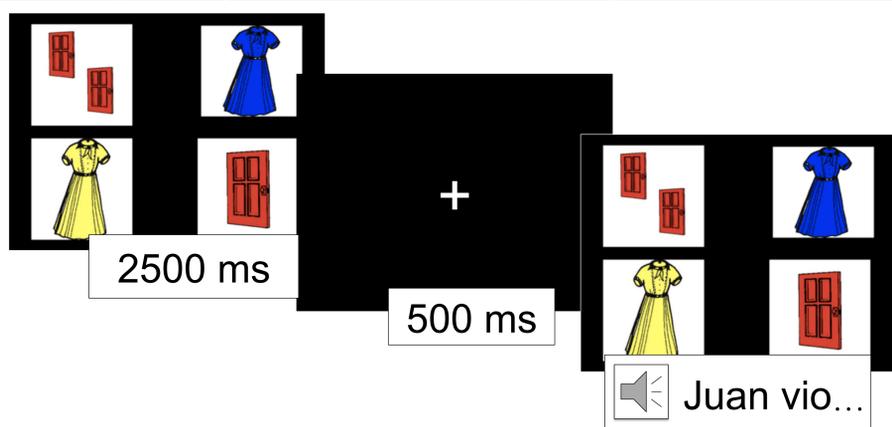
INTRODUCTION

- Despite great phonemic variation among different language varieties, speakers of the same language are able to understand each other.
- Perceptual learning of a new linguistic variety is achieved by exposure to multiple talkers of that variety (Clopper & Pisoni, 2004; Kraljic, Brennan & Samuel, 2008).
- Some type of “desirable difficulty” enhances learning (Bjork & Kroll, 2005).
- It is not clear what constitutes desirable difficulty when learning phonemic variation or if it will be beneficial.
- This study focuses on perceptual learning in the aspiration of the final /s/ present in some varieties of Spanish.

METHOD

- *Participants*: 136 Spanish monolinguals of Bogota, a variety of Spanish that realizes word final /s/.
- *Materials*:

	Masculine	Feminine
Singular	El carro rojo	La puerta roja
Plural	Los carros rojos ➤ <i>Non aspirated</i> Loh carroh rojoh ➤ <i>Aspirated</i>	Las puertas rojas ➤ <i>Non aspirated</i> Lah puertah rojah ➤ <i>Aspirated</i>



- **Blocks**:
 - Learning Block- Exposure to one of the conditions (44 experimental items)
 - Testing Block- Sentences consistently aspirated (10 experimental items)
 - Control Block- Sentences consistently realized (10 experimental items)
- **Conditions**:
 - Single Speaker Inconsistent
 - Multiple Speakers Consistent
 - Multiple Speakers Inconsistent

Acknowledgments

- PIRE NSF OISE 1545900
- Instituto Caro y Cuervo
- Dr. Graciela Maglia

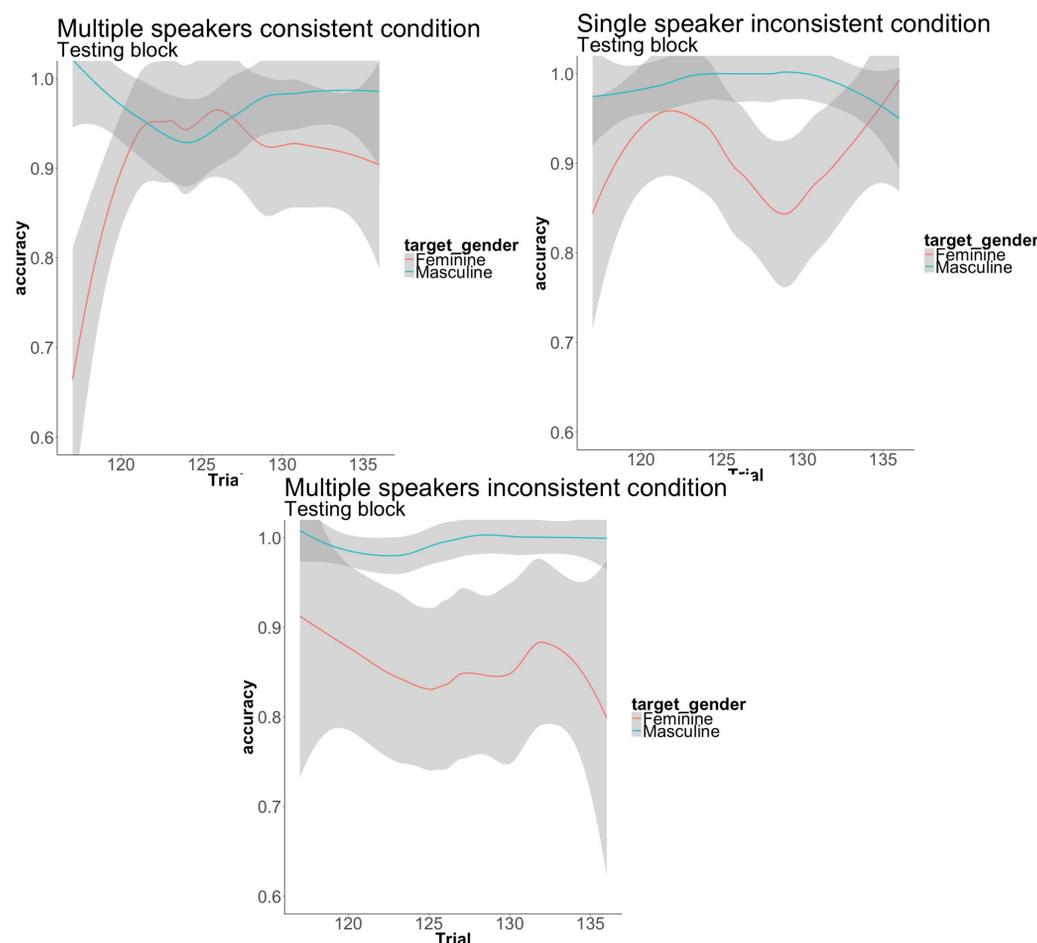
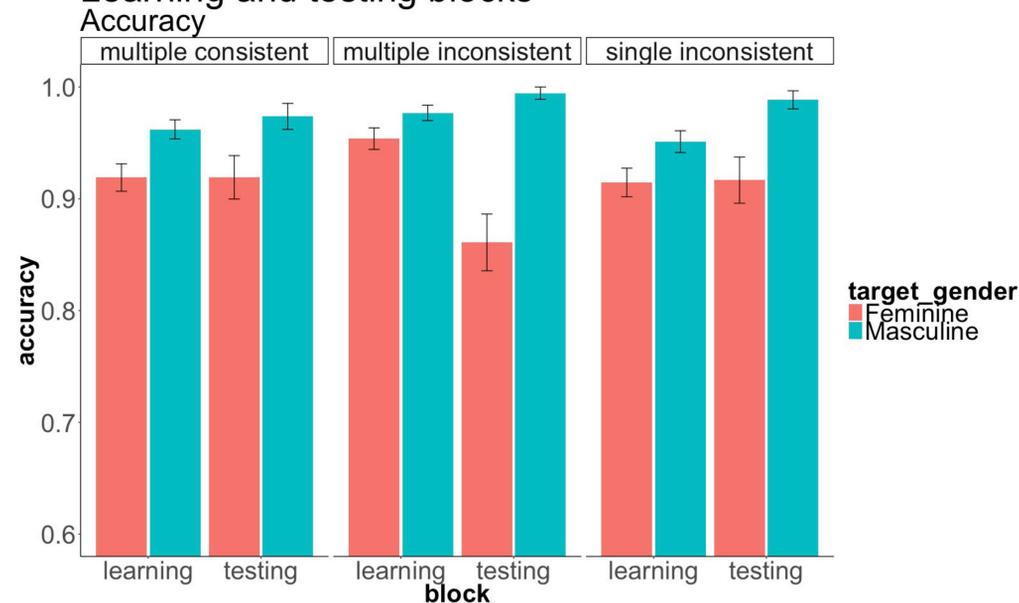
For a full list of references and other comments or questions, please contact:
Laura Rodrigo (lur235@psu.edu)

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How are native speakers best able to comprehend and distinguish differences in a variety?
- Does consistent input from speakers enhance learning? Or does variability via desirable difficulties prove more efficient?

RESULTS

Learning and testing blocks



CONCLUSIONS

- Inconsistency among multiple speakers appears to hinder long-term learning of perceptual cues
- Both multiple consistent and single inconsistent trainings reach a high level of learning – difficulty not hindering learning.