

Abstract

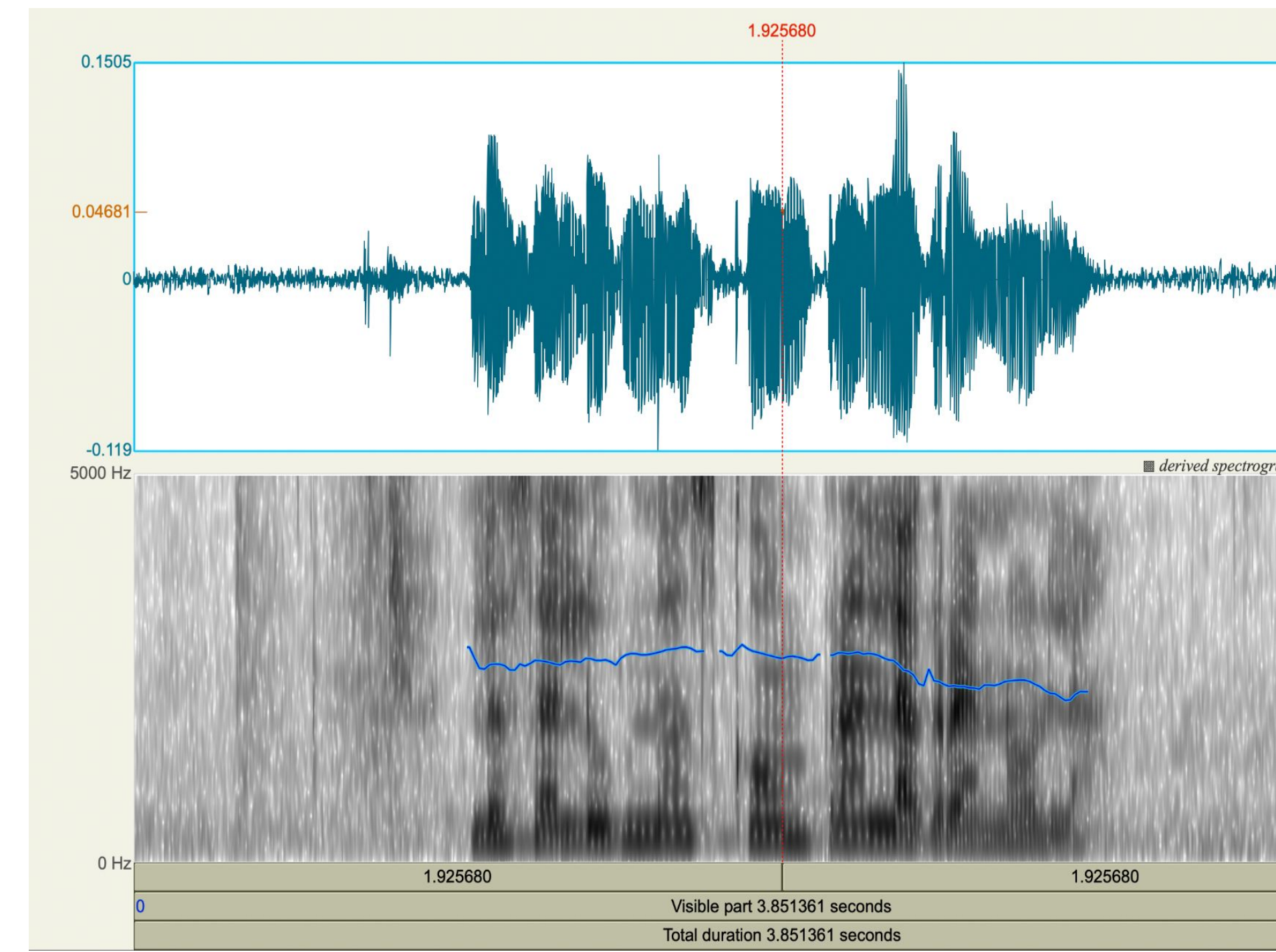
- Spanish is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. More than 486 million people speak it.
- There are numerous distinct Spanish dialects due to factors including location, distance, and culture.
- The dialect of Pasto, Colombia, is the main subject of this study. The purpose of the research is to examine distinctive acoustic characteristics and comprehend the parallels and discrepancies between Spanish that is in contact with Quechua.
- The results come from 80 sentences from native speakers of Spanish and are analyzed using the software Praat and intonation tags based on the AutoSegmental-Metrical Model and the Sp_ToBI labeling system.
- The goals of this research is to expand the collection of intonation patterns in Andean Spanish, highlight the importance of Pasto's linguistic diversity, promote it as a cultural resource and academic value on the Spanish language landscape in Colombia.

Background

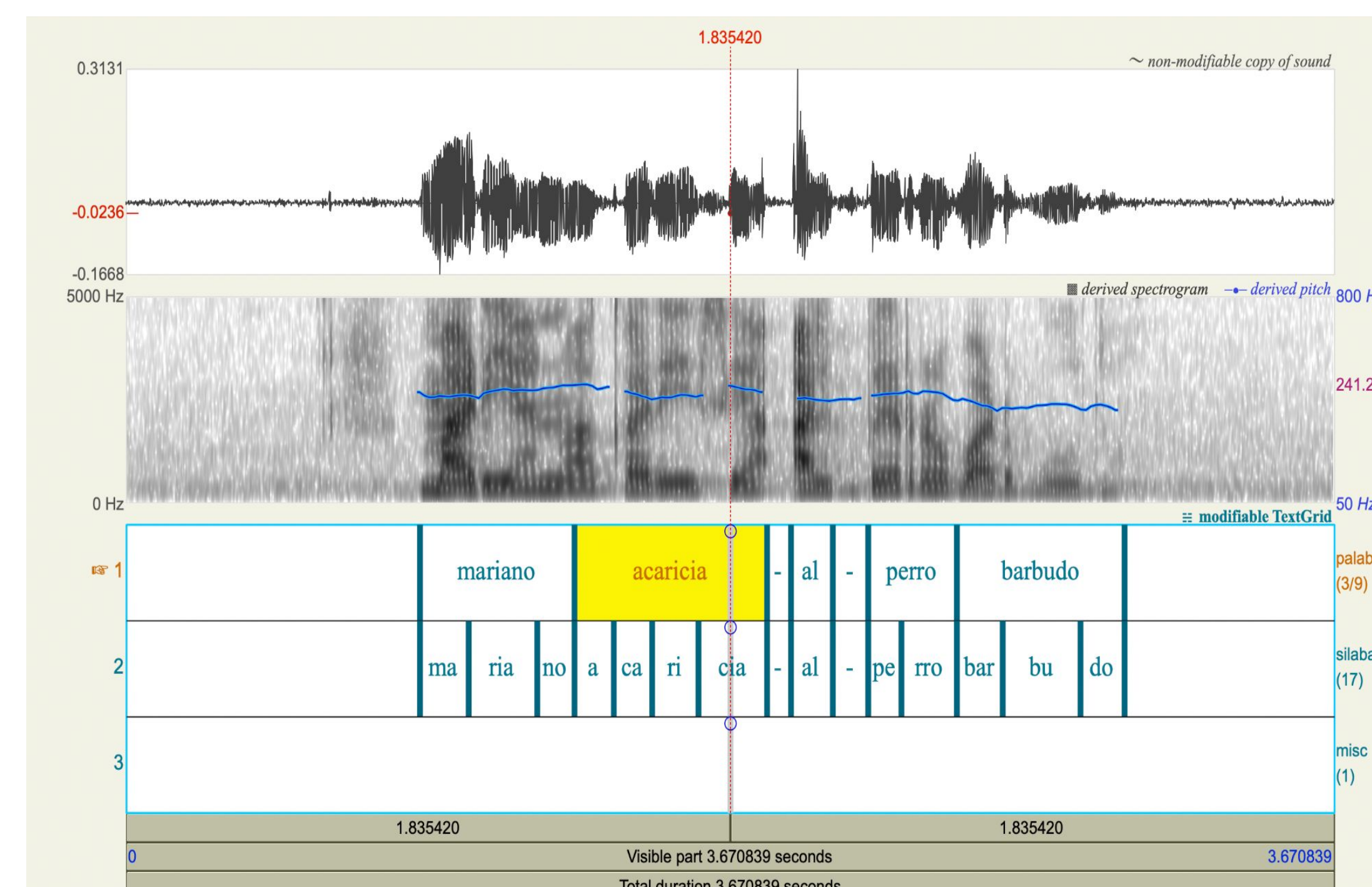
- Intonation refers to the variation in pitch, stress, and rhythm that occurs in spoken language. In Spanish, intonation plays a crucial role in conveying meaning, marking sentence boundaries, and signaling information structure.
- Spanish exhibits a distinctive pattern of rising and falling intonation, which varies depending on factors such as sentence type, emphasis, and speaker's intent. For example, declarative sentences typically end with a falling intonation, while questions often end with a rising intonation.
- Spanish employs intonation to mark information status, distinguishing between new and old information in discourse. New information is often emphasized with a rising pitch, whereas old or given information may be conveyed with a falling pitch.
- Understanding these intonation patterns is essential for effective communication in Spanish and provides valuable insights into the nuances of spoken language.



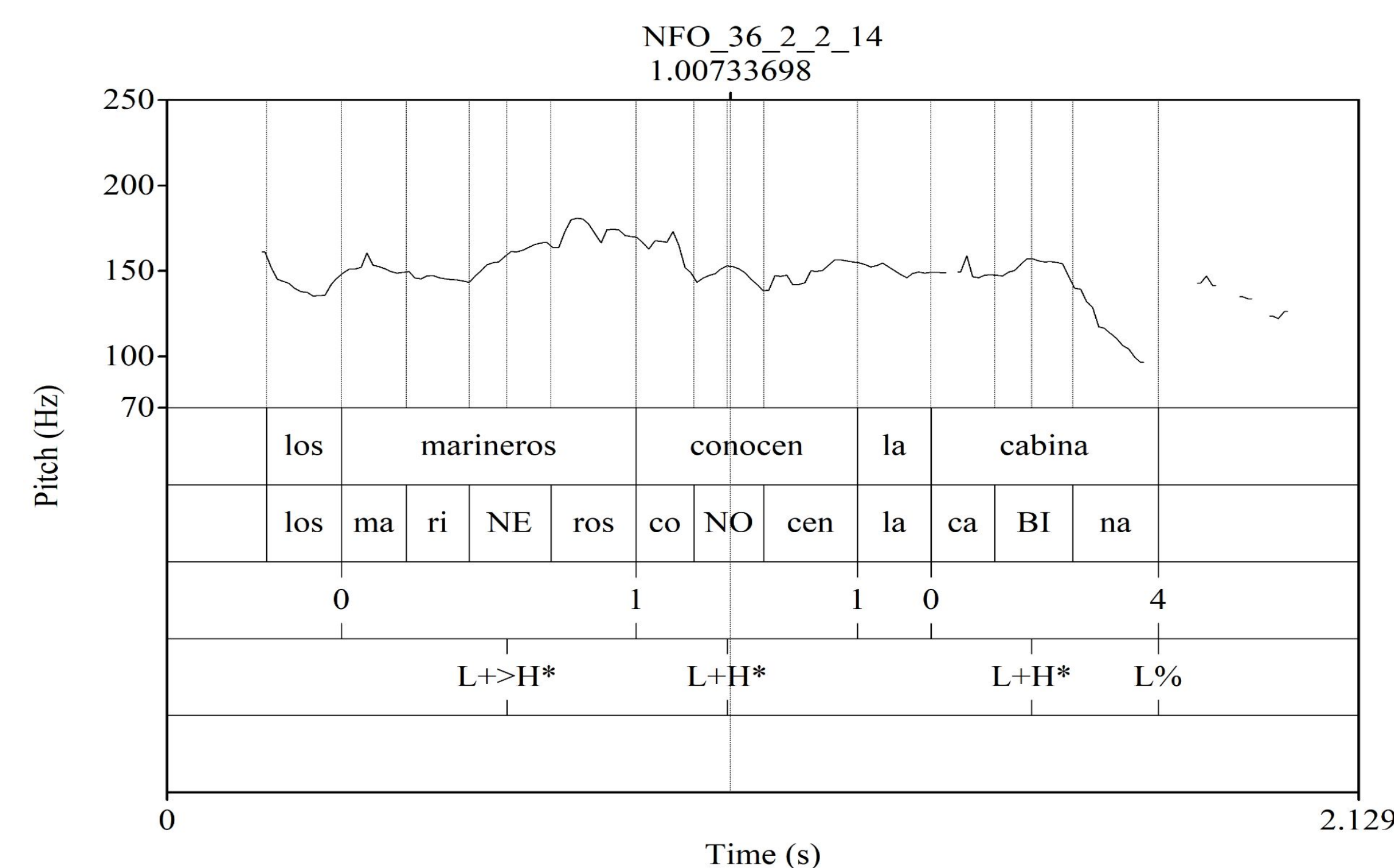
•Pasto, Colombia



•Audio recording from reading task



•Textgrid creation using Praat



• Textgrid data analysis

Methodology

- Audio recordings from a Reading task
- 28 Spanish monolingual participants
- 80 sentences in 4 different focus contexts
- Praat, Sp-ToBI
- PRAAT: Boesma, P. and Weenin, D. (1992–2024).
- SpToBI: Beckman, et al. (2002), Estebas-Vilaplana, E., & Prieto Vives, P. (2008), Face, T. L., & Prieto Vives, P. (2007), Hualde, J. I., & Prieto Vives, P. (2016).
- Autosegmental Metrical Model: Pierrehumbert, (1980).

Preliminary Results

- In the Spanish spoken in Pasto, peak alignment does not imply broad or narrow focus as it is prevalent in the three types of sentences.
- The idea that contours of verbs may provide clues to anticipate if the next word belongs to new or known information opens the door to keep on exploring production and perception of intonation.
- Narrow focus in the object behaves as expected, as the sentence is a marked position in Spanish for new information. (Zubizarreta, 1998)
- The patterns observed here are in accordance with previous studies of other Spanish varieties, considering that there is still a lot to explore about focus and intonation strategies.
- More research is needed to state/support or reject significant effects of these findings to describe the Andean Spanish intonation, specifically the use of intermediate boundary tones in Subject Focus sentences.

References

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