

Icelandic is relatively unusual in its high prevalence of [+spread glottis] ([+s.g.]; Halle & Stevens, 1971; Vaux, 1998), which denotes speech sounds in which the vocal folds are wide apart, with high (somewhat noisy) airflow. Thirteen of 25 Icelandic consonants are [+s.g.]: some more common (less marked) across languages (/h/, post-aspirated stops, and voiceless fricatives) and some less common (more marked) across languages (pre-aspirated stops as in *hattur* [hahtvʏ] 'hat'; ); voiceless sonorants as in *hlaupa* [lœy:pa] 'run'). Icelandic is included in a crosslinguistic study of protracted phonological development. The purpose of the current study is to examine acquisition of [+s.g.] in Icelandic, focusing on preschoolers with protracted phonological development (PPD) and matched typically-developing (TD) peers. Predictions are: (1) age and group effects; (2) lower accuracy for marked targets, except for preaspirated stops, previously shown to be early-acquired (Másdóttir, 2014); and (3) frequent [+s.g.] substitutions, especially [h] and pre-aspirated stops, for the other mismatched categories.

Words were extracted from a general 110-word probe list. The following targets were examined: word-initial (WI) singletons /h, p<sup>h</sup>, t<sup>h</sup>, c<sup>h</sup>, k<sup>h</sup>/; word-medial (WM) and -final (WF) singletons /hp, ht, hc, hk/; and, in all positions, singleton /f, s, θ, ç, x/ and voiceless sonorants /l̥, n̥, r̥, lt̥, ŋk̥, r̥t̥/. Icelandic speakers transcribed samples from 27 3- and 4-year-olds with PPD and matched TD children.

Age, group (PPD/TD) and relative accuracy effects occurred as expected. The less-marked /h/ and more-marked pre-aspirated stops showed the highest match levels. Mismatches also followed predictions although not completely. For example, for the groups with PPD, other [+s.g.] voiceless fricatives or [h] replaced WI fricatives, and [+s.g.] pre-aspirated stops were the most frequent substitution for WM voiceless sonorants. Substitutions for post-aspirated stops for the children with PPD showed [+s.g.] [h] and voiceless fricatives; however, [-s.g.] unaspirated stops were most frequent at both ages and glottal stops or voiced nasals also appeared as substitutions. WI voiceless sonorants were produced most frequently as [-s.g.] voiced sonorants, followed by [+s.g.] [h].

In terms of the markedness prediction, less-marked targets were generally more accurate than more-marked targets, with one important exception: pre-aspirated stops showed greater accuracy than post-aspirated stops (Másdóttir, 2014). This suggests alternative interpretations: that "pre-aspiration" might be treated as a full segment [h] by the children, or that its phonological realization as devoicing of the last half of the vowel might make it more stable than [+s.g.] that is fully within a consonant. In contrast, post-aspiration requires finer coordination between oral and laryngeal articulators (Studdert-Kennedy & Goldstein, 2003). In terms of the mismatch predictions, this was only partially confirmed. Fricatives and [h] replaced other fricatives and WM voiceless sonorants. However, voicing ([-s.g.]) was the most common mismatch for WI voiceless sonorants. Further, post-aspirated stops were often deaspirated, with a [-s.g.] substitution. Although the [+s.g.] feature is prevalent, its realization during acquisition varies according to word position, syllable boundaries and manner types.

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