

## SPAU 3343/ FINAL PROJECT/ SUMMARY SHEET

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### I. Talker background. (10 points)

- Talker's first language (L1): Hungarian
- How do people call the language in their own language and/or are there any other name(s) for the language? Magyar
- Any particular dialects/accents? West Danube
- Other languages spoken? English, Slovakian

### II. Details of talker's first language. Please include reference sources.

**A. In this section, please describe the L1 vowels. Best is a chart. If there are any diphthongs or triphthongs, be sure to discuss. Please indicate sounds not found in English. (10 points)**

Hungarian has 14 vowels separated in seven vowel pairs. Of the 14 vowels shown in the quadrilateral, six (/i/, /e/, /ɛ/, /u/, /o/, /ɑ/) are similar to English vowel phonemes. For every short vowel, there is a long vowel, indicated with the diacritic /:/. Short vowels are lower in the quadrilateral than their long counterparts, except for the low-back ones. The short vowels of Hungarian are usually realized as “lax” and the long ones as “tense”. Hungarian also has /ɛ:/, /a:/, and /ɑ:/ vowels, not illustrated in the main quadrilateral, as they only have a distinctive use in some minimal pairs. There is a debate about the existence of diphthongs in Hungarian. Some researchers consider /au/ as a diphthong, however most phonologists claim that /au/ should be considered a vowel sequence and not a diphthong. In general, the literature classifies Hungarian as a language that does not have diphthongs (Siptár & Törkenczy, 2000).

Finally, Hungarian is known for its vowel harmony. It is reported that vowels within a word show regressive assimilation, that is, a vowel will match the features of the preceding vowel (Kornai, 1987). For example, if the initial vowel in a word is a front one, then the rest are going to be front as well e.g. /yʃt-nɛk/, /kɛrt-nɛk/.

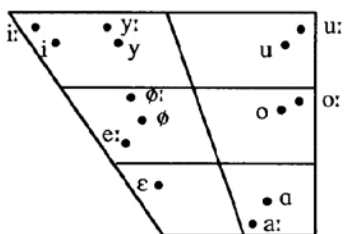


Figure 1: Vowels of Hungarian (Szende, 1994)

**B. In this section, please describe the L1 consonants. Best is a chart. Please describe by features (manner, place, voicing) in an organized manner. Please indicate sounds not found in English. (10 points)**

Hungarian has 25 consonants (Figure 2). Six of them are not shared with General American English: the dental trill /r/, the nasal palatal /ɲ/, the dental /ts/, /dz/ and palatal affricates /cç/, /ʃj/ (both voiceless and voiced). Hungarian consonants are realized at seven distinct places of articulation: bilabial, labiodental, dental, post-alveolar, palatal, velar and glottal and five manners of articulation: stop (oral and nasal), fricative, affricate, trill, approximant. Out of them, 10 are voiceless and 15 are voiced. Almost all consonants can be produced as geminates but not when in word initial position (Nádasdy & Siptár, 1989; Pycha, 2010). Hungarian has also a large inventory of consonant clusters in word-initial, medial and final position, with the three-consonant clusters being the most frequent in the intervocalic (medial) position (Törkenczy, 2004). Finally, several phonologists suggest that palatal /cç/ and /ʃj/ should be considered consonant clusters rather than affricates. However, the IPA chart classifies them as affricates, like the dental and post-alveolar ones.

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Post-Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosive	p b		t d			k g	
Affricate			ts dz	tʃ dʒ	cç ʃj		
Nasal	m		n		ɲ		
Fricative		f v	s z	ʃ ʒ			h
Trill			r				
Approximant					j		
Lateral Approximant			l				

Figure 2: Consonants of Hungarian, (Szende, 1994).

**C. In this section, please describe the L1 prosody. Is the language more stress-timed or syllable-timed? How are questions, statements, and other aspects of sentence-level intonation handled – similar to English, or differently? Please give examples and have them underlined (10 points)**

The primary (lexical) stress is usually on the first syllable of words in Hungarian. As a result, Hungarian is considered less stressed-timed than English. Hungarian has four major tonal melodies with rising and falling contours. However, the literature suggests that Hungarian should not be considered a tone language (Varga, 2002; Mycock, 2010). Rather, its melody is shaped by restrictions on its syntax and semantics. Statements usually have a falling intonation, similar to GAE. However, yes-no questions have a different-sentence level intonation pattern compared to English. In Hungarian, yes-no questions do not differ from statements syntactically and as a result the intonation always has a rising-falling contour, while English yes-no questions have a more flexible intonation pattern (Varga, 2002).

**III. State how well your talker follows the 13 PHONOLOGICAL RULES OF GAE, giving examples. Be sure to make clear whether you have no evidence for certain rules or whether the talker has difficulties with these rules (indicate “always-sometimes-not”). (15 points)**

The speaker notably missed most of the phonological rules of GAE. However, she managed to include five of them in her speech. The rules she followed as well as some examples are listed here:

- Aspiration of stops at word-initial positions.  
[k<sup>h</sup>am], [p<sup>h</sup>ɛrfɛkt]
- Vowels nasalized before nasals.  
[ã'nɔɪ], [ĩmadʒ]
- Velarized laterals after a vowel and before a consonant. The same rule applied at word-final positions.  
[fɛɫ], [p<sup>h</sup>iɫ], [p<sup>h</sup>ipɔɫ]
- Syllabic liquids at word-final positions.  
[litɫ]
- Unaspirated stops after /s/ at syllable initial positions.  
[strit], [spardɛr]

**IV. Which consonants and vowels did this talker have most problem with and in which context (e.g. syllable-initial, syllable-medial, syllable-final, everywhere)? (15 points)**

Talker's speech had many substitution, as she was using different vowels and/or consonants than expected. Her main issues are detected in the following areas:

- Alveolar stops instead of flap (syllable-middle)  
['water], ['tader]
- Trills instead of /ɹ/ (syllable-initial, syllable-final)  
['flauer], [rar]
- Tense vowels instead of lax (mainly in monosyllabic words)  
[skip], ['riðm], [ɑ'tʃiv]
- Dental alveolar instead of palato-alveolar affricates (syllable-medial)  
['mjutsuaɫ]
- Palato-alveolar instead of alveolar sibilants (syllable-medial)  
[e'ʃtabliʃ], [ikf'pɛn]

There was not a specific context for her substitutions because they were in syllable-initial, -mid, and final positions, as we see in the examples above. Overall, these substitutions contributed to her having a very strong accent.

**V. Describe whether your talker matches GAE prosody patterns. If possible, this should include patterns of lexical stress (e.g. “record, record”), focus (e.g., “are you going?” versus “are you going?”) and sentence-level intonation. Please give examples and gloss (15 points)**

Overall, her prosody matched the GAE patterns. She also made a clear distinction between primary and secondary stress in her sentence-level intonation for providing emphasis and she made the correct pauses when needed. Her statements had a rising-falling contour when answering questions and asking open-ended questions. Even though Hungarian yes-no questions have a different intonation pattern, as mentioned above, the speaker managed to use the GAE intonation pattern for this type of question. As a result, her foreign accent was only detected in some words where she did not place the primary stress on the correct syllable, e.g. [ˈkʰɔ̃nstrakt], [absoˈtʉti].

**VI. Based on all the above information, provide a brief SUMMARY of your talker’s accent. Include information about his/her vowel and consonant differences as well as prosodic distinctions (if relevant). This can include details of whether sounds occur in syllable-initial, -medial, or -final position. If possible, point out cases where the talker seems to succeed in achieving English sounds not found in his/her L1 inventory. (15 points)**

This speaker’s accent was influenced by her Hungarian L1 background. Her speech included many vowel and consonant substitutions in various contexts (syllable-initial, -medial and –final positions), which mainly contributed in her accent being perceived as foreign. However, her speech did not have any omissions or consonant-cluster simplifications, probably because her L1 is a language with a large cluster inventory. Interestingly, even though Hungarian has a distinction between tense and lax vowels, this speaker mainly used tense vowels in almost all syllables. Additionally, her consonantal substitutions mainly included consonants produced at the alveolar ridge as she substituted palato-alveolar with dental alveolar and alveolar with palato-alveolar consonants. However, the speaker managed to achieve the nasal velar phoneme /ŋ/ in word-final position, which is not found in Hungarian, e.g. /ˈslipiŋ/.

The speaker managed to apply only five of the phonological rules of GAE to her speech, which also contributed to her having a strong accent. Specifically, the absence of glottal stops and flaps and the over-velarization of /l/ in all contexts was evident in the corpus. Excessive aspiration of stop consonants in stressed and unstressed syllables led to an overapplication of the rule, which also contributed to her accent being perceived as foreign. Finally, her prosody generally matched GAE, with only few words being stressed in different syllables than expected.

Overall, this speaker’s accent can be perceived as a strong one because of all the aforementioned reasons. Nevertheless, she was highly intelligible and pleasant to listen to.

## References

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