

## **/s/ aspiration in Andalusian Spanish – an experimental study of 4 cities**

**Paul O’Neill (University of Sheffield)**

Recently, aspiration of coda /s/ before voiceless occlusives in Andalusian Spanish has attracted substantial academic attention since it has various phonetic realisations, the most notable of these being no phonetic cues of aspiration after the vowel and in its stead a voiceless aspirated stop in Western Andalusian Spanish (WAS) and a voiceless aspirated and elongated stop in Eastern Andalusian Spanish (EAS). There has been much debate on the phonetic motivation of such pronunciations and their phonological status, particularly whether they are intended by speakers or a result of purely phonetic processes relating to the synchronisation and overlap of articulatory gestures ((Cronenberg et al. 2020; Gerfen 2002; Moya Corral 2007; O’Neill 2009; O’Neill 2010; Parrell 2012; Ruch 2012; Ruch & Harrington 2014; Ruch & Peters 2016; Torrerira 2007a; Torrerira 2007b; Torrerira 2012; Torrerira & Ernestus 2011). Opinions differ and different experiments produce different and, at times, contrasting results (see Ruch & Harrington 2014 for an overview). Common to all the aforementioned studies, however, is their exclusive focus on /s/ before voiceless occlusives in word internal contexts (e.g. *pasta* ‘pasta’, *caspa* ‘dandruff’).

In normal speech /s/ tends not to have an alveolar fricative pronunciation before any consonants in Andalucía but there is a marked lack of research as to (a) what these pronunciations are, (b) the effects of external sandhi and (c) whether the morphological status of <s> influences its pronunciation. The present study, therefore, does not primarily intend to explore the contested academic questions regarding the phonetic origin and phonological status of any new types of pronunciations; rather, the aim is to focus on the differences between the speech of specific cities and expand on previous research in analysing more linguistic contexts of coda /s/, specifically: (a) word internal position before all types of consonants, and (b) across word boundaries pre-vocalically and in all preconsonantal positions. In the latter case I will also explore the different types of morphological <s> , specifically: as a marker of 2SG on verbs, PLURAL on nouns and in the word *dos* ‘two’. I argue that focussing on different contexts of /s/ aspiration and different cities in which the rate of change from pre-to-post aspiration varies is extremely insightful in revealing the different processes and mechanisms of sound change.

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