

## An acoustic description of the vowels of Campidanese Sardinian

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Campidanese is one of the two main dialect groups of Sardinian, and it is spoken in the southern part of Sardinia. Research on the phonetics and phonology of Campidanese has largely focused on the historical development of its sound system (Wagner 1941, Viridis 1978), with limited instrumental studies available. Pioneering work by Contini & Böe (1972) provided early acoustic data, while Mereu's recent sociophonetic studies (2019, 2020) offer detailed phonetic analysis of Cagliari Campidanese.

The vowel inventory of Campidanese is the subject of debate regarding its composition. Diachronic research identifies seven phonemes, while synchronic analyses propose a system with seven phones and five distinctive vowels. Studies on Campidanese phonology often overlook diphthongs and the alternation between diphthong and hiatus (Viridis 1978; Bolognesi 2012; Mensching & Remberger 2016). Loi Corvetto (1979) identifies two symmetrical sets of 8 opening [ja, je, jo, ju, wa, we, wi, wo] and closing [aj, ej, oj, uj, au, eu, iu, ou] diphthongs that she considers as tautosyllabic biphonematic sequences. An ongoing phonetic change in Campidanese is the transition of opening diphthongs into hiatuses, such as ['bjaŋ.ku] becoming [bi.'aŋku] for 'white', as documented by Loi Corvetto (1979) and Mereu (2020).

In this talk we will provide an acoustic analysis of the Campidanese vowel inventory. Data were collected in Sinnai (CA), where the Cagliari dialect of Campidanese is spoken, from a sample of 50 native speakers of Sardinian (mean age 65, 26 M - 24 F). All participants are Italian-Sardinian bilinguals. The speakers read a set of sentences containing monophthongs in stressed and unstressed syllables, as well as diphthongs in stressed position. For diphthongs, the effect of prosodic prominence (i.e., focused – unfocused position) was also tested. This preliminary qualitative analysis aims to illustrate the acoustic properties of (a) both stressed and unstressed vowel systems and (b) the two sets of diphthongs. In addition, the dynamic structure of diphthongs and hiatuses will be observed and discussed.

### References

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