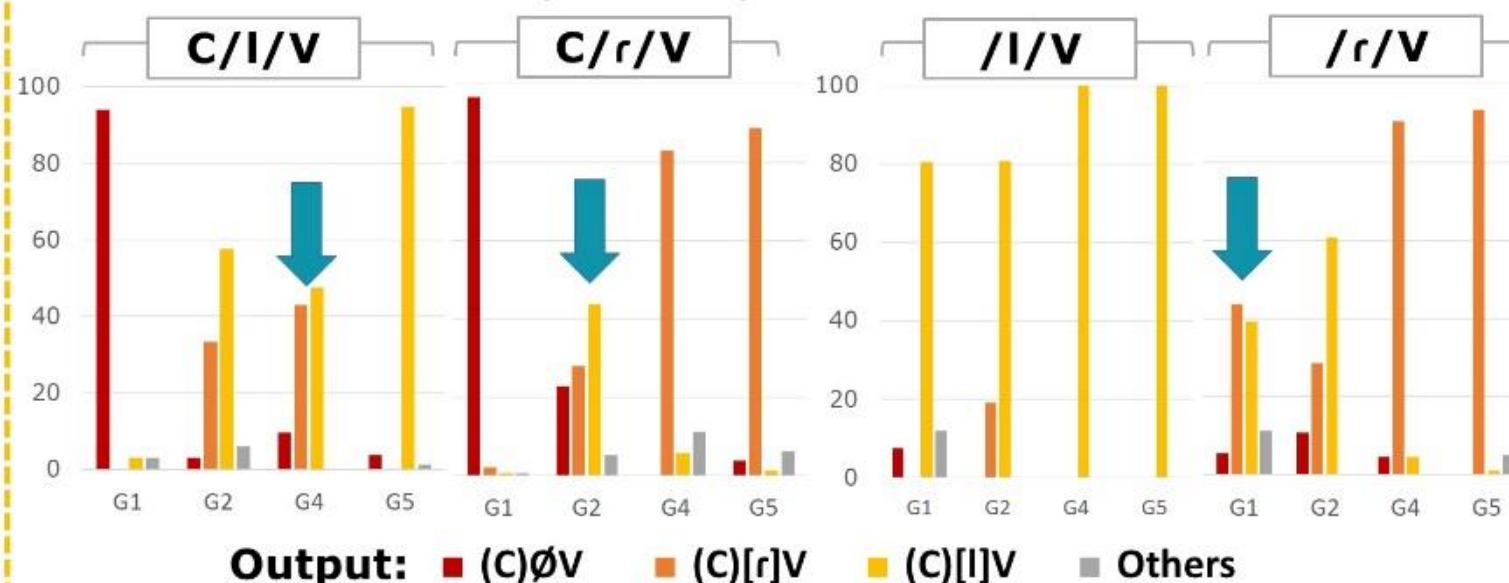


[pla] is equal to [pra], but [la] is not equal to [ra] Syllable effects on the mispronunciation sensitivity of liquids in Brazilian Portuguese

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Production studies in BP point that /l/ and /r/ are interchangeable at the first moments of acquisition – but **CCV** and **CV** syllables present different tendencies:



Main Questions:

- 1) Could children who switch liquids in their outputs recognize liquid swaps in the input?
- 2) Could syllable structures affect perception?
- 3) How are liquids specified in words' underlying forms?
- 4) Could syllable structures affect the representation of liquids?

Mispronunciation detection task: Would children be equally sensitive to liquid mispronunciations...

In both **CCV** and **CV** contexts? ----- No!

In both liquid mispronunciation directions, /l/ → [r] and /r/ → [l]? ----- No!

17 children, 2-5 years old

Target_Group: consistent target-like CCV (N=6)

Control Test

Deletion_Group: consistent CCV liquid deletion (N=6)

Swap_Group: consistent CCV liquid swapping (N=5)

Examples:

/brufa/ 'witch' -- "Is it a [blufa]?"
/zirafa/ 'giraffe' -- "Is it a [zilafa]?"

/bluza/ 'shirt' -- "Is it a [bruza]?"
/galina/ 'chicken' -- "Is it a [garina]?"

Production and detection tested on the same children

Liquid mispronunciations



Syllable structure: CCV x CV

- Swap Group detects more liquid mispronunciations on **CV** than on **CCV**;
- Only Deletion Group accepts mispronunciations on both **CV** and **CCV** – even on stable /l/V contexts.

Segmental content: /r/ x /l/

- Swap and Target-Like Groups tend to detect more **C/r/V > C[l]V** swaps than **C/l/V > C[r]V**;
- On **CV**, only Deletion Group presents differences on [l] ↔ [r]: /l/ > [r] is more detected than /r/ > [l].

SYLLABLE TYPES AFFECT THE SEGMENTAL PERCEPTION OF LIQUIDS: CCV AND CV PRESENT DIFFERENT SENSIBILITY DIRECTIONS

Discussion: Possible causes to mispronunciation detection asymmetry:

Input frequency

More > Less frequent is harder to detect

CDS	C/l/V	C/r/V	/l/V	/r/V
tokens	1,175	17,623	43,509	22,844
types	191	1,380	1,690	1,627

Predictions:

C/r/V > C[l]V should be less detectable ✗
/l/V > /r/V should be less detectable ✗

Child production tendencies

Changes towards CPT are harder to detect

CS	C/l/V	C/r/V	/l/V	/r/V
Targets	447	6,636	15,418	8,639

- **CCV**: both lateralization and rhotacism
- **CV**: lateralization predominantly

Predictions:

C/l/V > C[r]V should be less detectable ✓
/r/V > [l]V should be less detectable ✓

Suggestion: Underdeveloped contrastive hierarchy could account for the MP acceptance and production instability

Specified > non-specified is more detectable due to the loss of information

Individual differences on the preferred liquid on CCV syllables – but never on CV.

?? Different hierarchies for CCV and CV?