Speech Segmentation using Raw Sound

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Speech synthesis/Speech recognition/Speech understanding

Psycholinguistic models of speech production/comprehension

VINNOVA
VERKET FÖR INNOVATIONSSYSTEM

The role of function words in spontaneous speech processing

SPEECH TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM PROJECT
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www.ling.lu.se/projects/ProSeg2.html

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Psycholinguistic hypotheses tested on spontaneous speech

- **Commit- and- Restore hypothesis**: Stranded function word reflect ”syntactic commitments” (Clark & Wasow (1998)). I.e. they signal that the speaker intends to produce a constituent of the kind signalled by the function word produced

- **Complexity hypothesis**: the probability that a speaker will hesitate in speech production will increase, the more complex the constituent being planned is (Clark & Wasow (1998))

Related Neurophysiological hypotheses (Pulvermüller 1995, 2003)

- Function words stored in the perisylvian cortex (Broca's region) - lateralized

- Content words have a more widely distributed storage - not lateralized- support from imaging studies (Pulvermüller 1995, 2003)

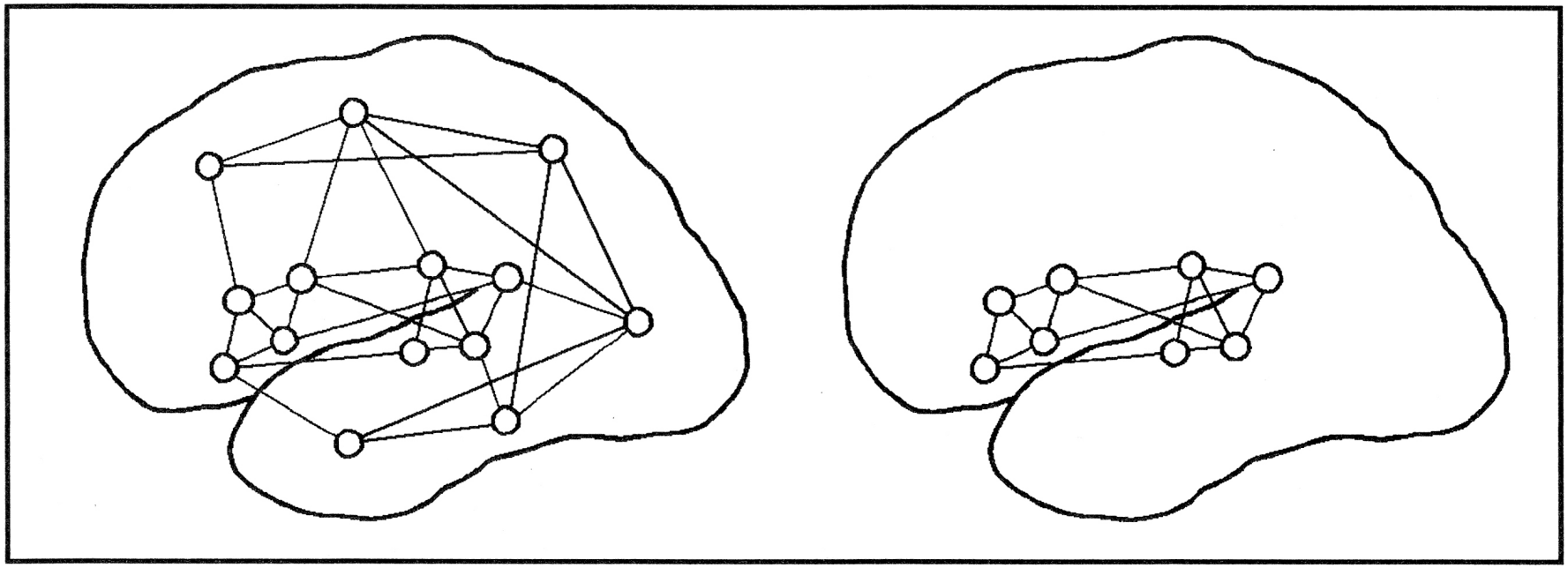
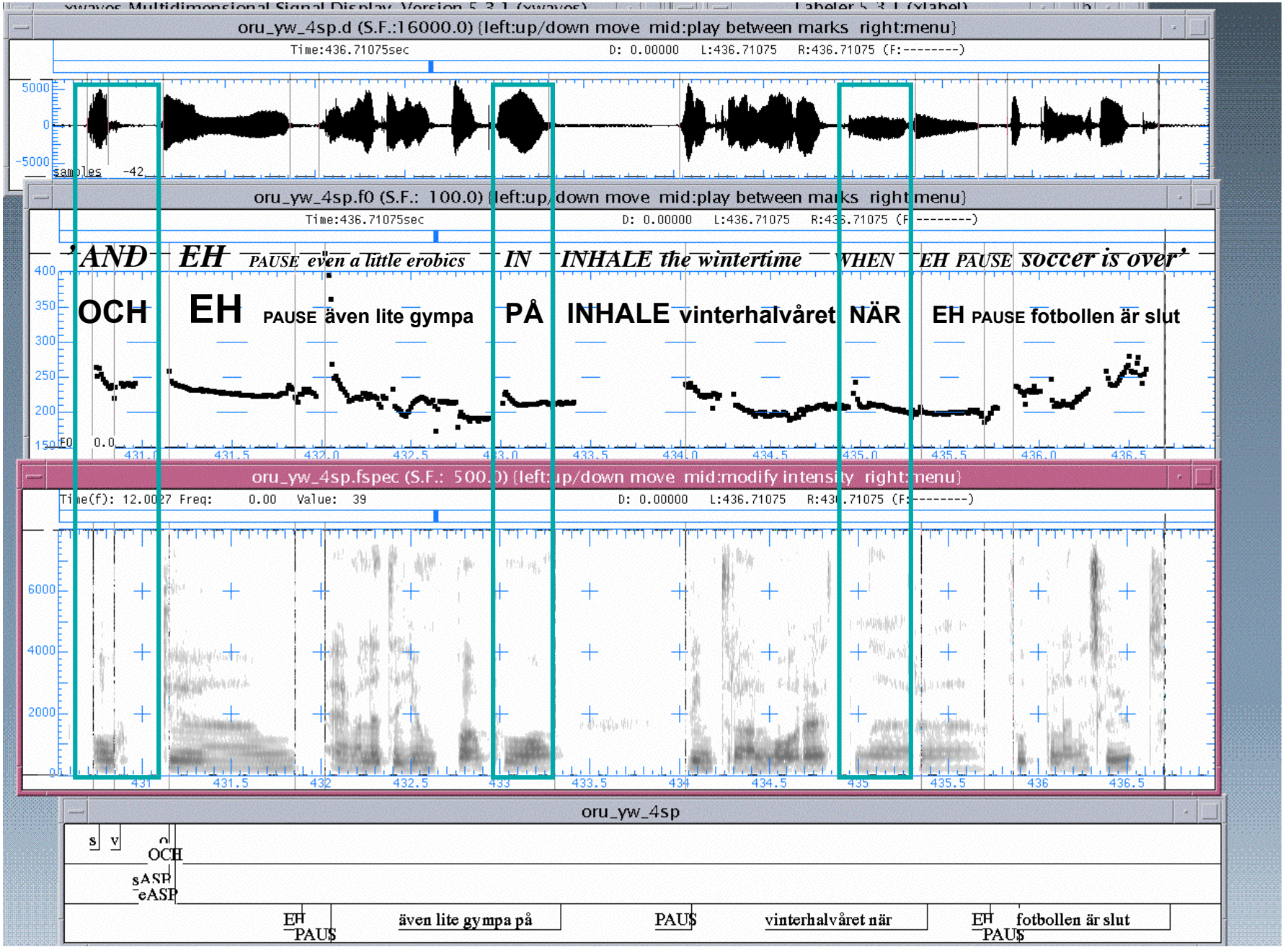


Figure 6.7. Schematic illustration of left-hemispheric distributions postulated for cell assemblies representing high-imageability content words (left) and highly abstract function words (right).

(From Pulvermüller 2003)


oru_yw_4sp.d (S.F.:16000.0) {left:up/down move mid:play between marks right:menu}
Time:436.71075sec
D: 0.00000 L:436.71075 R:436.71075 (F:--------)
oru_yw_4sp.f0 (S.F.: 100.0) {left:up/down move mid:play between marks right:menu}
'AND EH PAUSE even a little erobics IN INHALE the wintertime WHEN EH PAUSE soccer is over'
OCH EH PAUSE även lite gympa PÅ INHALE vinterhalvåret NÄR EH PAUSE fotbollen är slut
oru_yw_4sp.fspec (S.F.: 500.0) {left:up/down move mid:modify intensity right:menu}
oru_yw_4sp
OCH
EH PAU$
även lite gympa på
PAU$
vinterhalvåret när
EH PAU$
fotbollen är slut

Speech 'Chunking' problem (Miller 1956)

Units for speech processing
(speech synthesis/speech recognition)

Timing restrictions on speech processing

- Memory research (Baddley 1997)

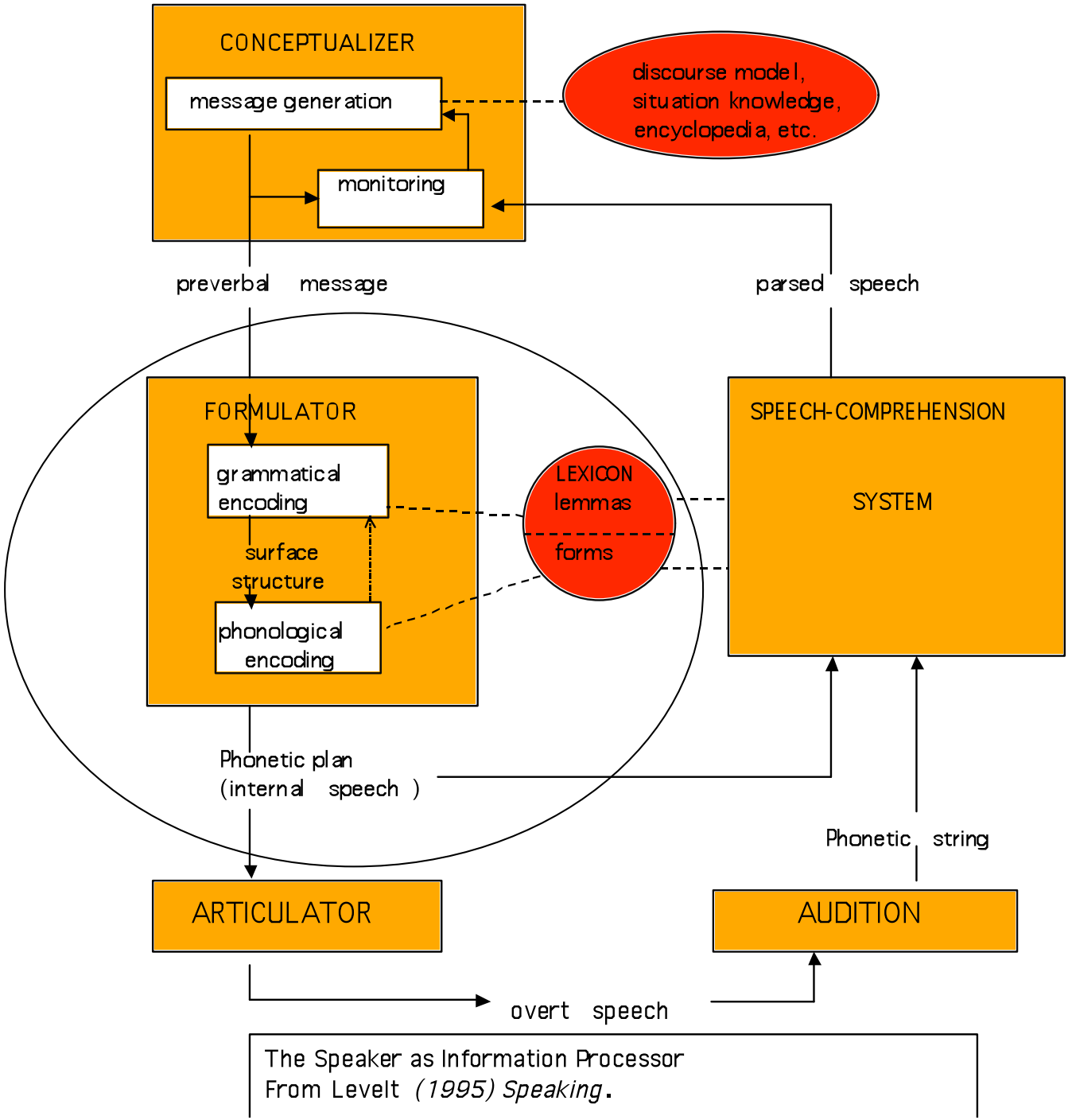
'Phonological loop' (2 sec.)

- Cognitive linguistics (Chafe 1994)

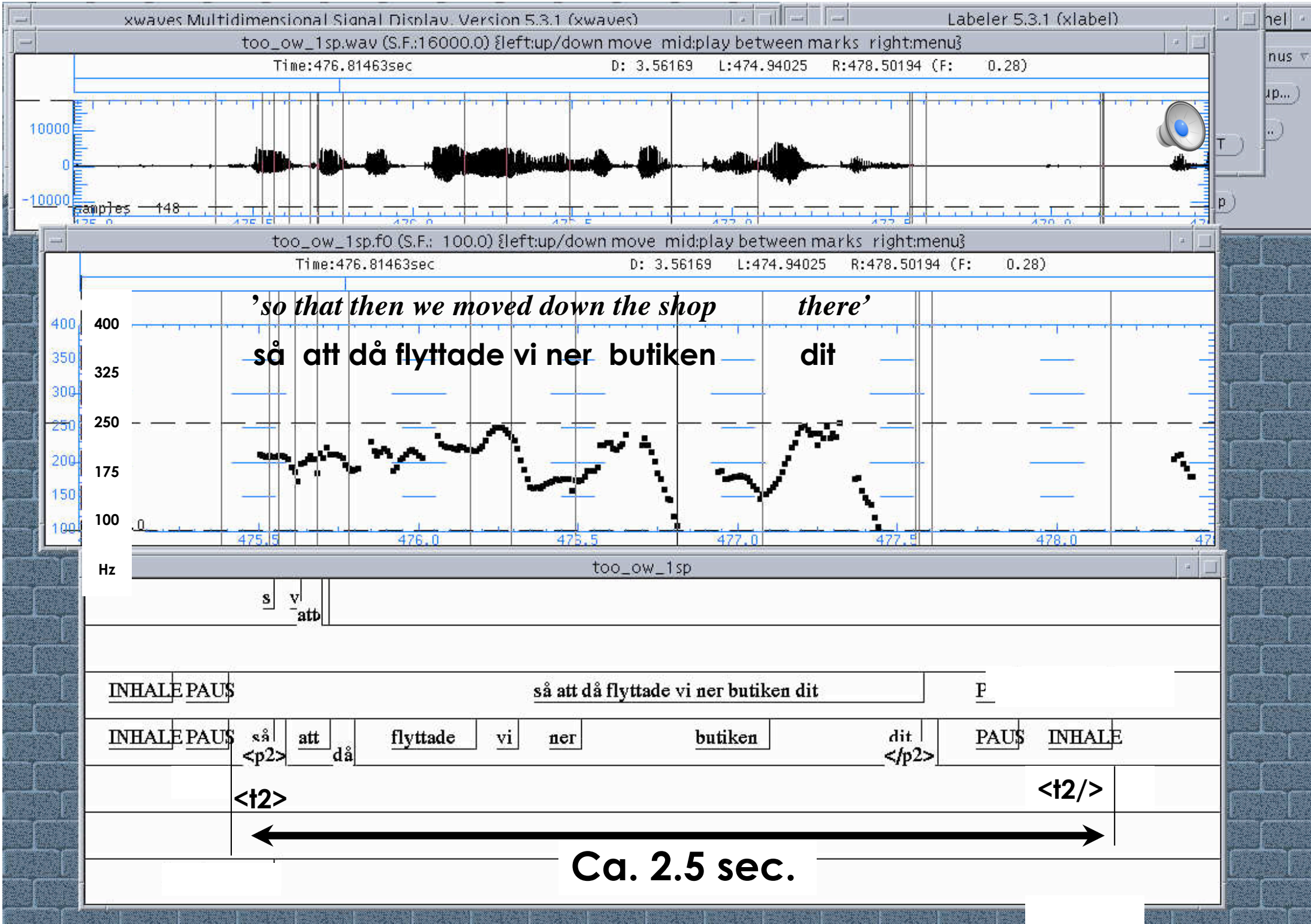
'Focus of consciousness' (1-2 sec)

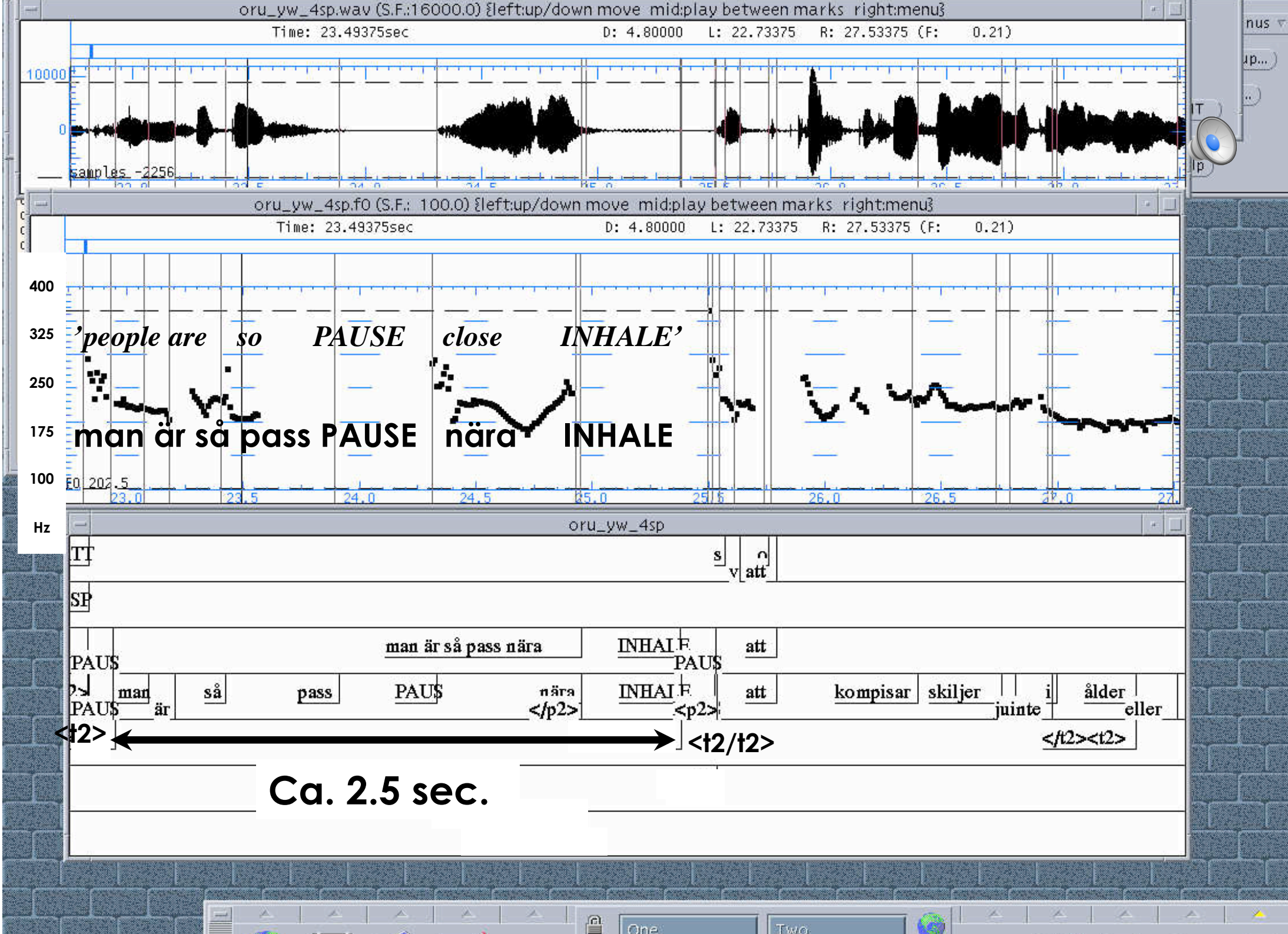
Speech planning unit

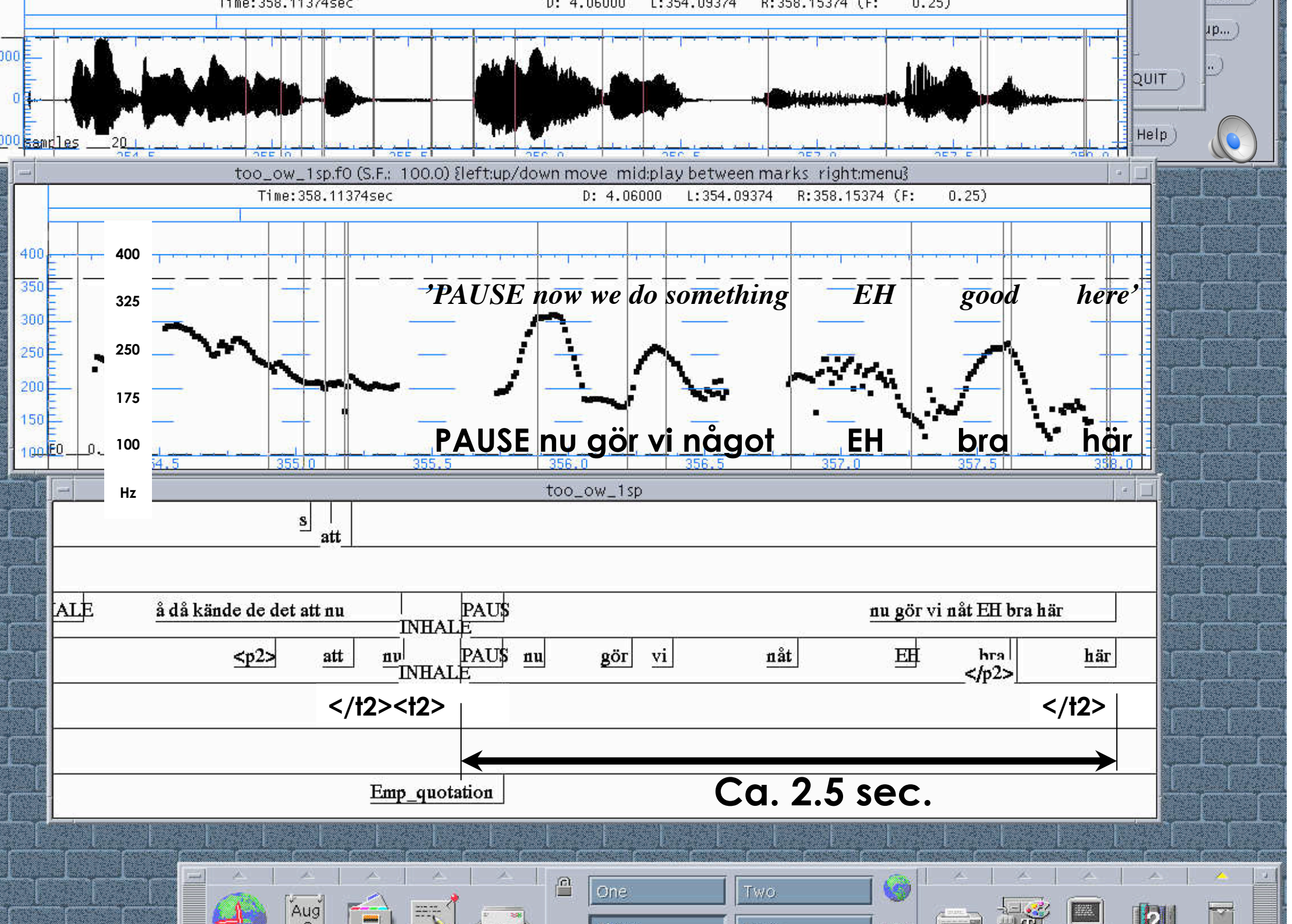
Ca. 2-2.5 sec. time limit

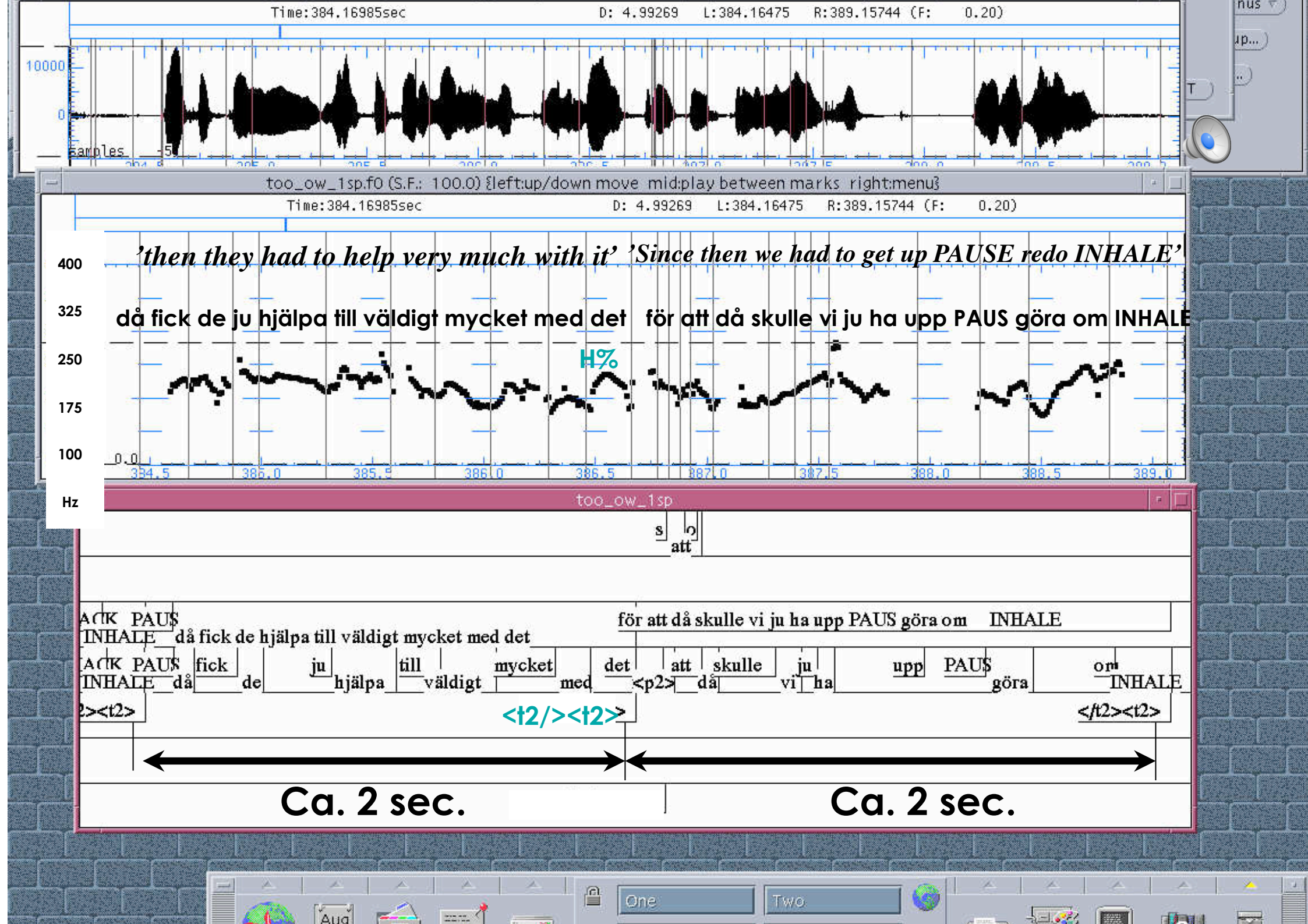


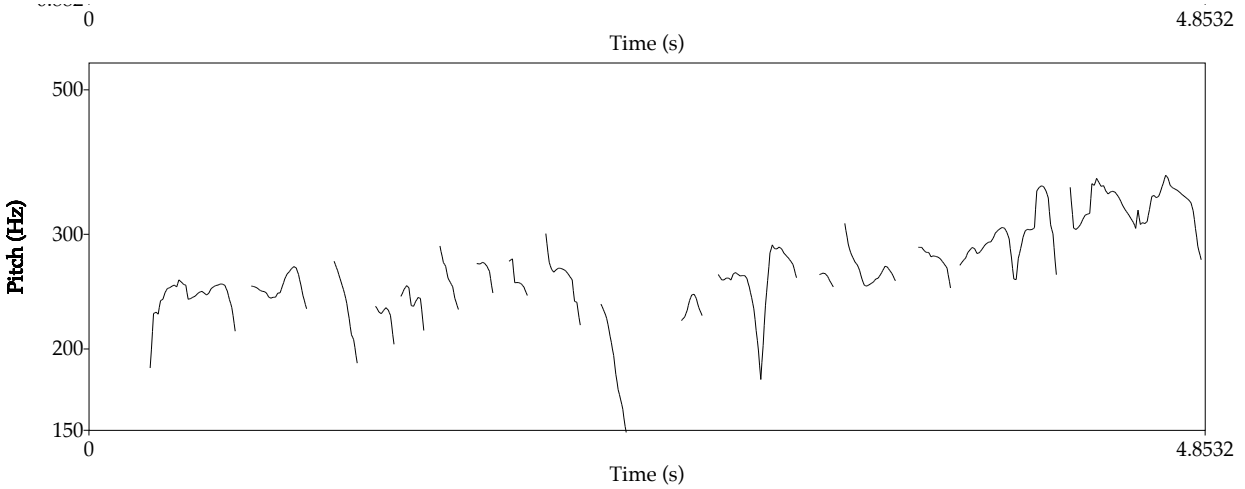
The Speaker as Information Processor
From Levelt *(1995) Speaking*.


xwaves Multidimensional Signal Display, Version 5.3.1 (xwaves)
Labeler 5.3.1 (xlabel)
too_ow_1sp.wav (S.F.:16000.0) {left:up/down move mid:play between marks right:menu}
Time:476.81463sec
D: 3.56169
L:474.94025
R:478.50194 (F:
0.28)
10000
0
-10000
samples
148
too_ow_1sp.f0 (S.F.: 100.0) {left:up/down move mid:play between marks right:menu}
Time:476.81463sec
D: 3.56169
L:474.94025
R:478.50194 (F:
0.28)
'so that then we moved down the shop
there'
så att då flyttade vi ner butiken
dit
400
350
300
250
200
150
100
400
325
250
175
100
Hz
475.5
476.0
475.5
477.0
477.5
478.0
too_ow_1sp
s
v
att
INHALE PAUS
så att då flyttade vi ner butiken dit
P
INHALE PAUS
så
<p2>
att
då
flyttade
vi
ner
butiken
dit
</p2>
PAUS
INHALE
<t2>
<t2/>
Ca. 2.5 sec.


oru_yw_4sp.wav (S.F.:16000.0) {left:up/down move mid:play between marks right:menu}
Time: 23.49375sec D: 4.80000 L: 22.73375 R: 27.53375 (F: 0.21)
10000
0
samples -2256
oru_yw_4sp.f0 (S.F.: 100.0) {left:up/down move mid:play between marks right:menu}
Time: 23.49375sec D: 4.80000 L: 22.73375 R: 27.53375 (F: 0.21)
400
325
250
175
100
Hz
'people are so PAUSE close INHALE'
man är så pass PAUSE nära INHALE
F0 202.5
23.0
23.5
24.0
24.5
25.0
26.0
26.5
oru_yw_4sp
TT
SP
PAUS
man är så pass nära
INHALE
att
kompisar
skiljer
juinte
ålder
eller
<t2>
<t2/t2>
</t2><t2>
Ca. 2.5 sec.


Time:358.11374sec D: 4.06000 L:354.09374 R:358.15374 (F: 0.25)
Samples 20
QUIT
Help
too_ow_1sp.f0 (S.F.: 100.0) {left:up/down move mid:play between marks right:menu}
Time:358.11374sec D: 4.06000 L:354.09374 R:358.15374 (F: 0.25)
400
325
250
175
100
Hz
'PAUSE now we do something EH good here'
PAUSE nu gör vi något EH bra här
too_ow_1sp
s
att
å då kände de det att nu
PAU$
INHALE
nu gör vi nåt EH bra här
<p2>
att
nu
PAU$
nu
gör
vi
nåt
EH
bra
</p2>
här
INHALE
</t2><t2>
</t2>
Emp_quotation
Ca. 2.5 sec.
One
Two


Time:384.16985sec D: 4.99269 L:384.16475 R:389.15744 (F: 0.20)
10000
0
samples
too_ow_1sp.f0 (S.F.: 100.0) {left:up/down move mid:play between marks right:menu}
Time:384.16985sec D: 4.99269 L:384.16475 R:389.15744 (F: 0.20)
'then they had to help very much with it' 'Since then we had to get up PAUSE redo INHALE'
400
325
250
175
100
Hz
då fick de ju hjälpa till väldigt mycket med det för att då skulle vi ju ha upp PAUS göra om INHALE
H%
0.0
384.5
385.0
385.5
386.0
386.5
387.0
387.5
388.0
388.5
389.0
too_ow_1sp
s
att
ACK PAUS
INHALE då fick de hjälpa till väldigt mycket med det
för att då skulle vi ju ha upp PAUS göra om INHALE
ACK PAUS fick de ju hjälpa till väldigt mycket med det att skulle ju upp PAUS om
INHALE då <p2> då vi ha göra INHALE
2><t2>
<t2/><t2>
</t2><t2>
Ca. 2 sec.
Ca. 2 sec.



[Jenny just nu nästsist] [hon kan klippa Tchechenko]

[Å så är det hårt där framme] [å så kommer Johanna Hayes och ramlar]

Ca.2.1 sec

Ca. 2.3 sec

Inhalations as anchors for speech segmentation

- Can one automatically recognize inhalations?
  - Characteristics: noise, lack of F0, can have formant structure if oral
- Possible method: Template matching
  - Uses distance measures between a reference sound and signal being processed

Using cepstral coefficients for inhalation pause detection in spontaneous speech

Anders Johansson, Johan Frid, Merle Horne

SPECOM 2005, Patras, Greece

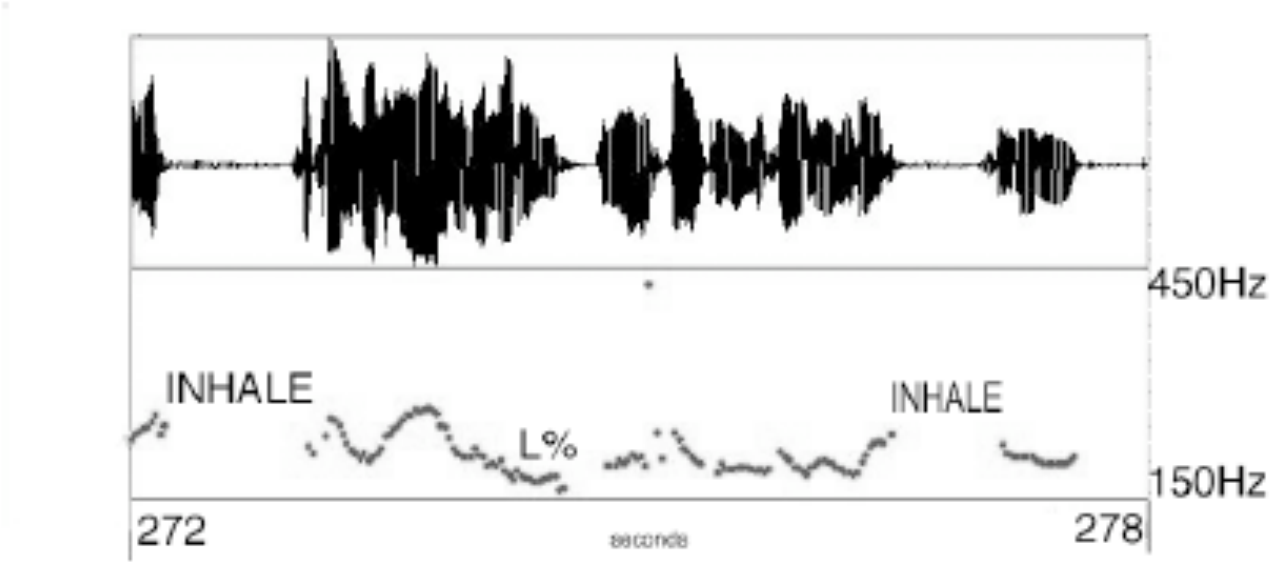


Figure 1: *An example of spontaneous speech illustrating how inhalations (labelled INHALE) can be used as anchors in the segmentation of speech into processing units. The speech between the inhalations consists of two clauses:* Så tränar man med jämna mellanrum *'So you train regularly' and* det gick pågick ju under flera månader *'it last lasted for several months'. The clauses constitute two prosodic phrases separated by a pause.*

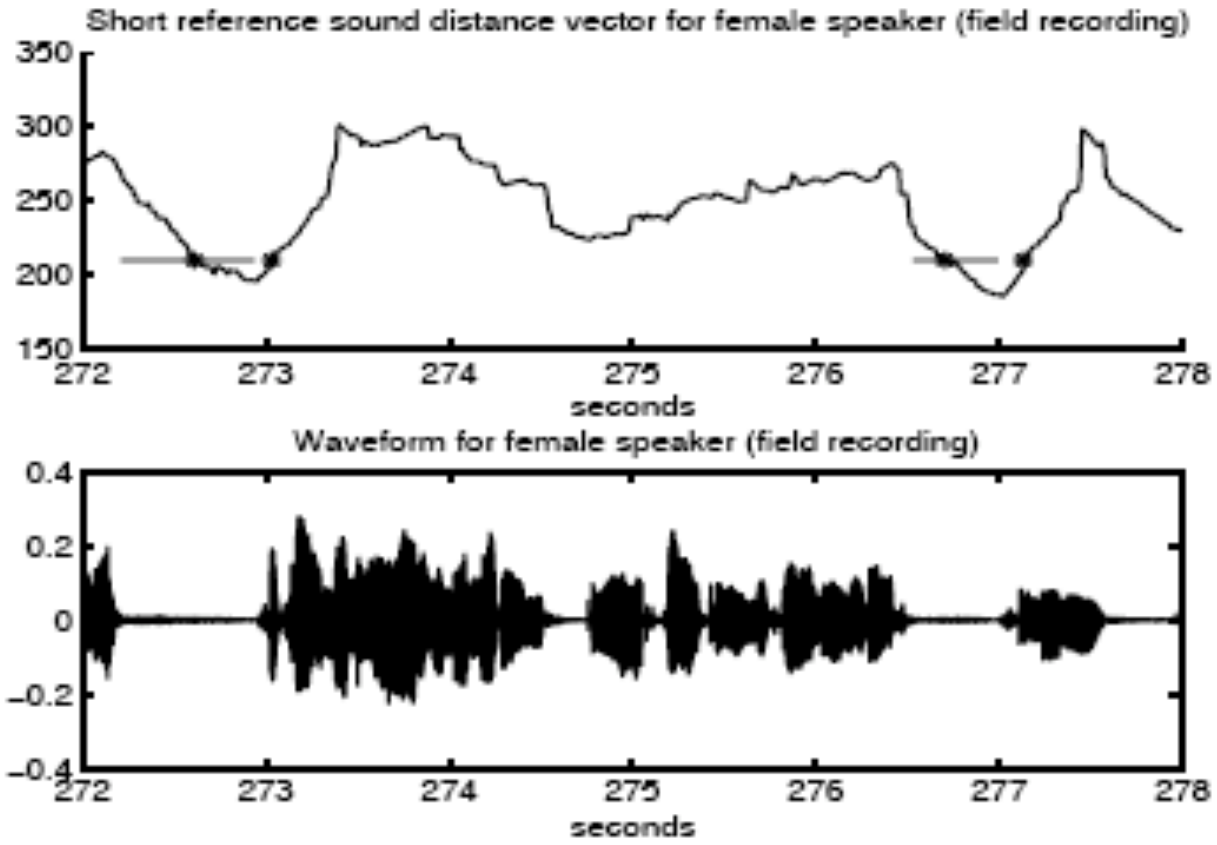


Figure 5: *Distance vector of field recording of female speaker as generated from short reference sound. Stars indicate detected inhalations, lines indicate tagged inhalations. Recording from the SweDia material.*

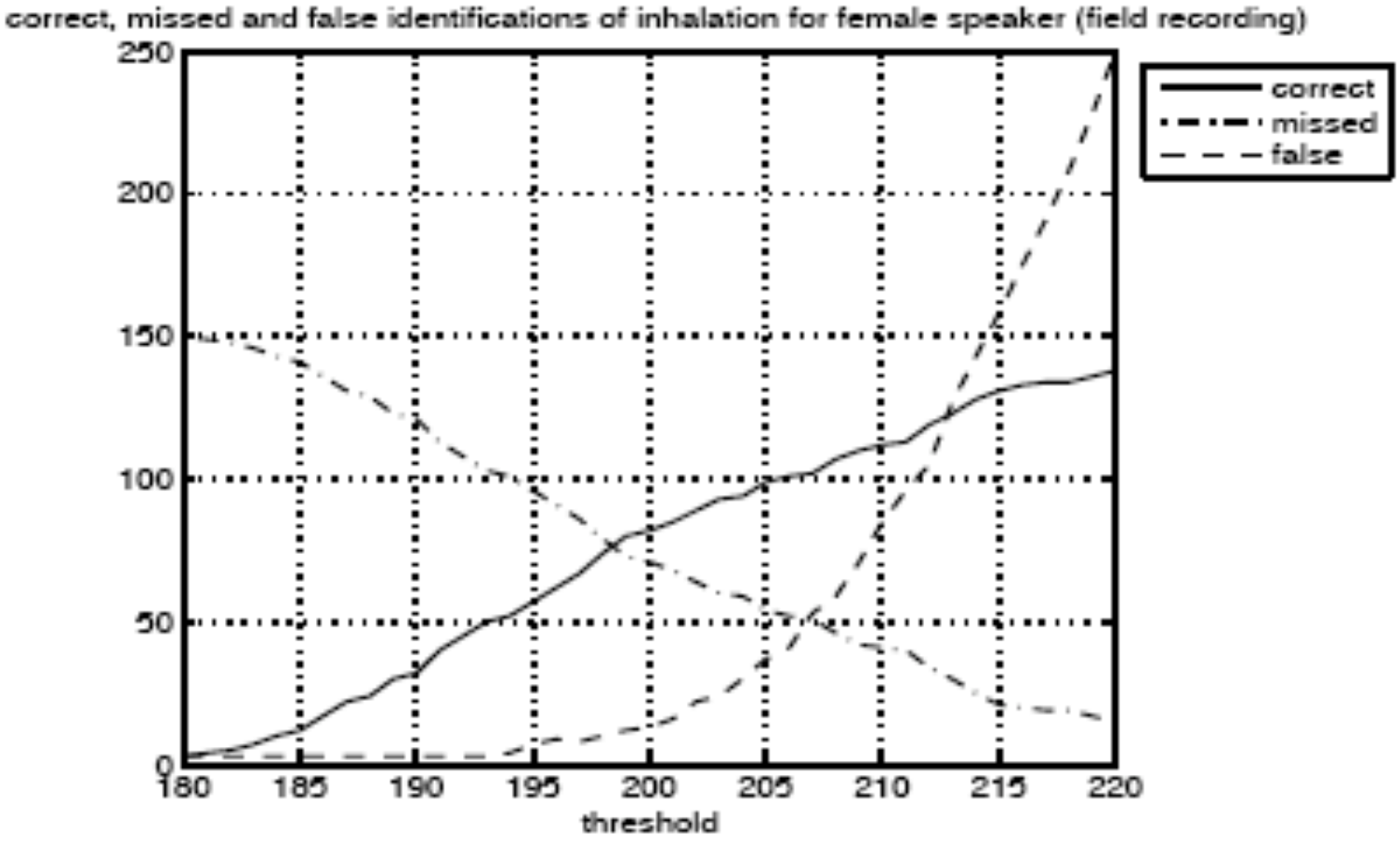


Figure 9: *Number of correct, false and missed identifications of inhalations in field recording of female speaker as generated from short reference sound.*

Observations:

False identifications associated with sounds of the following types: exhalations, word-final aspirated sounds, whispers and voiceless fricatives

Properties of inhalations quite stable, even over different speakers