



Nativeness in production and perception

Dr Ksenia Gnevsheva

Is nativelikeness in an L2 possible?

- Examples of L2 speakers who perform like L1 speakers (Ioup et al., 1994)
- Miniscule differences exist even for very early L2 learners (Abrahamsson & Hyltenstam, 2009)

What is a native speaker?

- ‘someone who is accepted as such by the community referred to as that of [native] speakers’ (Coppieters, 1987:565)

Passing

- **Self-reports** (Abrahamsson & Hyltenstam, 2009; Marx, 2002; Piller 2002)
- **Perception experiments** (Abrahamsson & Hyltenstam, 2009; Bongaerts, 2000; Gnevsheva, 2017; Ioup et al., 1994)

Predictors of speaking proficiency

- **Suprasegmentals:**
 - **Speech rate** (Munro & Derwing, 2001)
 - **Word stress** (Field, 2005)

Production and perception

- acoustic measures do not always correlate with perception ratings (Munro & Derwing, 2015)
- non-perceivable non-nativeness (Abrahamsson & Hyltenstam, 2008)

Salience of features

- out of 20 L2 speakers, 1 was perceived to be nativelike and 2 had native like production of consonants and vowels, but these were not the same people (Schmid, Gilbers, & Nota, 2014)
- in L2 English speakers vowel quality, consonant manner, and stress, but not voicing (Magen, 1998)

Research Question

- What is the relationship between vowel quality and passing?

The speaker Kahui

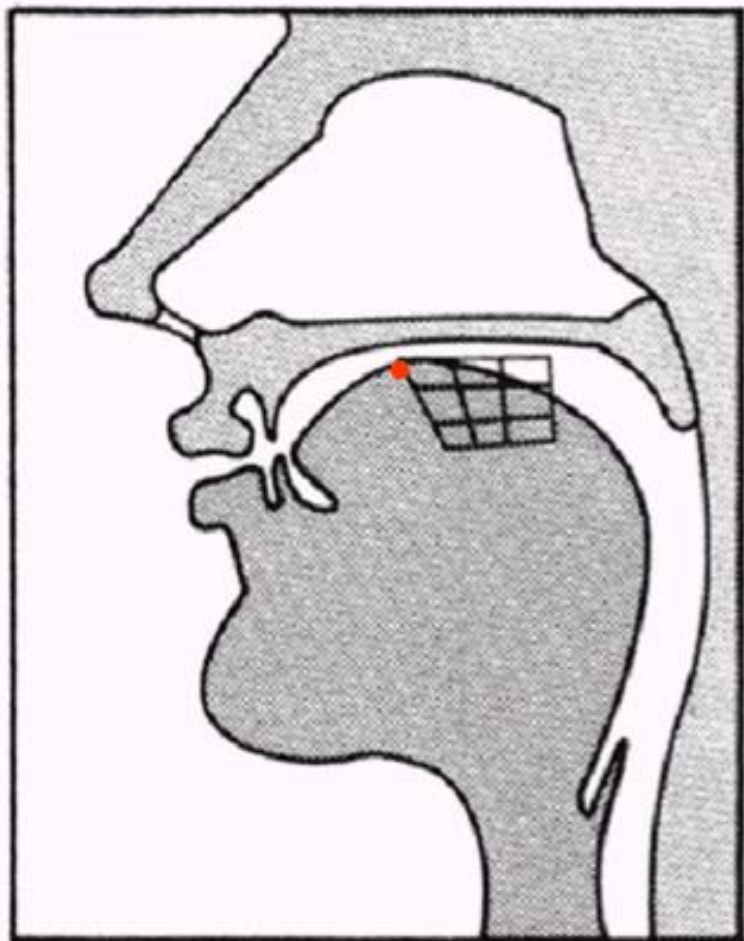
- German L1
- Male
- 23-years-old
- Age of first exposure: 9 years of age, EFL
- Age of arrival: 21 years of age, New Zealand
- L2 use: almost 100% (-weekly Skype sessions with family)

Self-reports

- Most often they [people] realize that I'm not native when I tell them or when they ask me, "Where do you come from?" They expect an answer like Napier or Christchurch... (Kahui.AA)

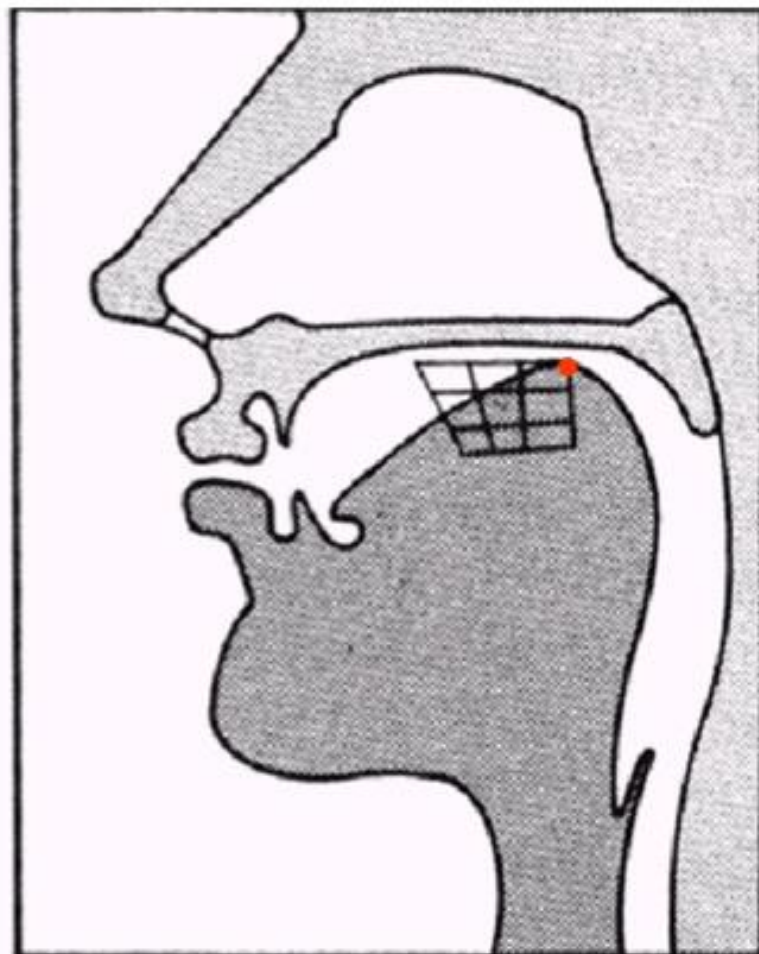
Data collection: Production

- Interviews and self-recordings
- About 1 hour
- Stressed monophthongs
- Measured F1 and F2 at 50% (Boersma & Weenink, 2009)



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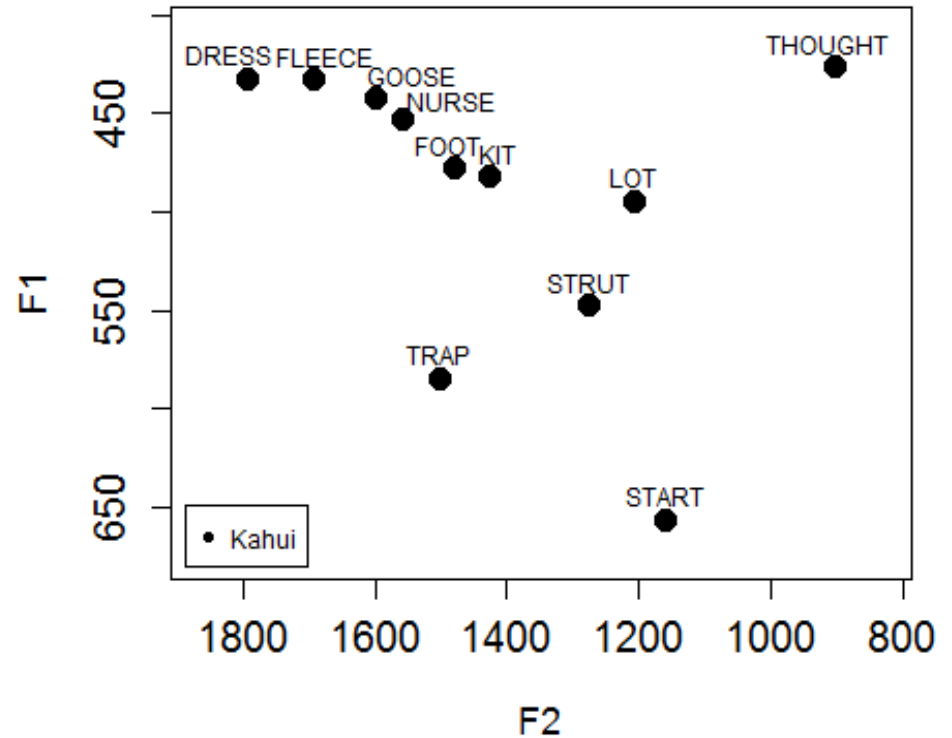
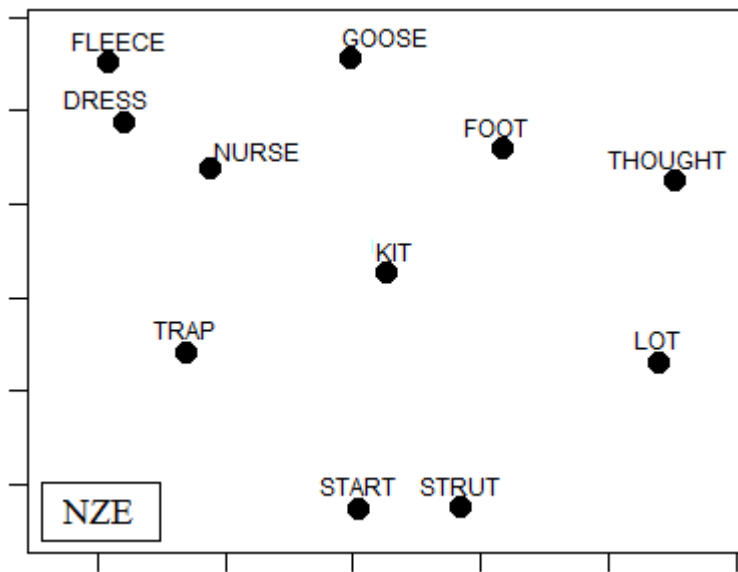
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New Zealand English and Kahui's vowels



(Wells, 1982)

Data collection: Perception

- 24 speakers (9 L1 German, 9 L1 Korean, 6 L1 English)
- 4 clips per speaker
- Mean length of clips 26.6 words, 13 seconds
- 24 NZE listeners
- 3 questions:
 - 1-7 accentedness scale
 - Origin of speaker
 - Comment on why

Origin classifications

- L1 New Zealand English
- L1 English (other varieties): Australia, Canada, Ireland, the UK, and the USA
- L2 English
- No response

Kahui's passing

- L1 NZE - 71.2%
- L1 English (other varieties) - 23.8%
- L2 English - 2.5% (2 listeners)
- No response - 2.5%

Discussion

- Near-native production -> passing for a native speaker
- Listener focusing on 'salient' vowels
- Native-like production of 'salient' vowels -> enough for passing?

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