

Chapter 10

Conclusion

10.1 Summary of Findings

The most important findings of this dissertation are the following:

- i. the three liquids of Spanish are characterized by a greater degree of dorsal resistance to vocalic coarticulation than the coronal stop
- ii. the Spanish lateral is produced with a coronal approximation and a tongue body gesture resembling that of a mid front vowel
- iii. the Spanish trill is produced with a coronal approximation and a tongue body gesture resembling that of a mid back vowel
- iv. the Spanish tap is produced with a coronal approximation and a tongue body gesture resembling that of a mid central vowel
- v. Russian non-palatalized liquids are characterized by a greater degree of dorsal resistance to vocalic coarticulation than the non-palatalized coronal stop
- vi. of the Russian non-palatalized consonants /r/, /l/ and /d/, only the lateral is produced as a 'velarized' (pharyngealized) segment
- vii. the Russian non-palatalized lateral is produced with a coronal approximation and a dorsal gesture resembling that of a mid back vowel
- viii. the Russian non-palatalized trill is produced with a coronal approximation and a dorsal gesture resembling that of a mid central vowel
- ix. the Russian palatalized liquids are produced with additional constraints on the posterior tongue body, not observed in the production of the palatalized Russian coronal stop

10.2 Summary of Claims

The most important claims of this dissertation are the following:

- i. coronal liquids in Spanish and Russian are characterized by the coordinative production of tongue tip and tongue body gestures
- ii. clear/dark lateral allophony results not from the absence of a dorsal gesture in the clear lateral, but from differences in tongue body constriction location
- iii. liquid vocalization results from the lenition or loss of the tongue tip gesture in a liquid segment
- iv. coda liquid neutralization results from the loss of distinction between tongue body constriction locations and tongue tip gestural control
- v. VL metathesis may be explained as a change in the syllabic coupling relationships between the constituent gestures of adjacent liquids and vocalic nuclei
- vi. vocally-conditioned liquid allophony results from the blending of adjacent tongue body gestures associated with the liquid and the context vowels