LETTER TO THE EDITOR EDİTÖRE MEKTUP

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Voice Onset Time in Turkish-speaking Children with Repaired Cleft Lip and/or Palate: A Case-control Study

Türkçe Konuşan Opere Dudak/Damak Yarıklı Çocuklarda Sesi Başlatma Zamanı Parametresi: Vaka-kontrol Çalışması

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Dear Editor,

I have read the original article published in the Journal of Ear Nose Throat and Head Neck Surgery.[1] I want to congratulate the authors for their research article, and make some contributions.

"In the paper, it was indicated that there is no study investigating the voice onset time (VOT) variability in the Turkish-speaking cleft lip and/or palate (CL/P) population, which is not correct at all"[1]. As a result, researchers primarily aimed to compare VOT values between the individuals with repaired CL/P and their healthy control peers for Turkish-speaking children. However, I believe that researchers have already conducted a similar study to determine VOT values in Turkish.[2] This study is very important since it basically shows and provides normative data for the VOT values of typical developed individuals in Turkish. It even provides VOT values for each stop sound with each vowel combination. Nonetheless, it lacks VOT values of children and children with CL/P. To fill this gap, there is a fundamental study that was carried out by other researchers.[3] This study was also a starting point for the current research's target population, as it clearly showed VOT values in children with cleft lip-palate. However, none of these studies were indicated in the paper, even though the second study already gave all the answers to this paper's hypothesis. It is very interesting that the current research methodologically seems to be quite similar to the study carried out by other researchers, and this study was neither referenced nor mentioned in the current paper as it was one of the very first original studies on the topic in the Turkish literature.[3]

Additionally, VOT is a reliable stop characteristic that is used to measure sound duration, burst duration, and stop duration. Methodically speaking, I wonder how VOT values were controlled in the research without providing a carrier sentence since VOT values could be easily affected and manipulated by speakers' rate of speech, stop sounds' phonological environment,

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and connected speech. I understand tokens used for this study only represent monosyllabic, initial position /pa/, /ta/, and /ka/ utterances, which is a crucial limitation to this study and is not appropriate to generalize the results of VOT values as it should have been measured in the middle and end positions as well.

Note:

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No conflicts of interest between the authors and / or family members of the scientific and medical committee members or members of the potential conflicts of interest, counseling, expertise, working conditions, share holding and similar situations in any firm.

Authorship Contributions

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