POSTER 5:

Distribution of glottalized onsets in task-directed American English speech

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The systematic appearance of irregular pitch periods at prosodically significant locations, such as the onsets of intonational-phrase-initial and pitch-accented vowel-initial words in American English, has been reported in read laboratory speech (Pierrehumbert and Talkin 1992) and professionally-read radio news speech (Dilley et al. 1996). We extend these findings in a survey of irregular pitch period episodes in a corpus of task-driven speech (Kenney et al. 2013), using the map-task method (Anderson et al. 1991) to elicit 16 short dialogues from 8 pairs of adult female speakers of an East Coast dialect of American English. These dialogues were hand-labelled for episodes of irregular pitch periods, as part of a larger effort to mark the acoustic cues to prosodic structure and phonological feature contrasts. This study compares the consistency of laryngeal marking of prosodic structure across several speech samples from the same speaker, as well as the differences among the 8 speakers.