

# Voicing-Conditioned Vowel Duration in Southern Serbian

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### Abstract

This study presents results of an acoustic analysis of a sample of controlled speech in Southern Serbian. Durations of vowels before voiced and before voiceless obstruents were examined in word-final and word-medial position in two experimental conditions: in isolation and in a sentence frame. The duration of the vowels before voiced obstruents tends to be longer than that before voiceless obstruents. The overall average of ratios is 0.82, which is similar to findings in other languages. The effect is greater in words read in isolation. In word-final position this effect is slightly greater before fricatives than before stops. In the second part of the study, these results are compared with the results for Standard Serbian, which has both phonemic vowel length contrast and voicing-conditioned differences in vowel duration, unlike Southern Serbian, which does not have phonemic length contrast. A hypothesis that voicing-conditioned durational differences in vowels would be bigger in Southern Serbian than in Standard Serbian was not confirmed by the results of the study. In both Southern Serbian and Standard Serbian these differences are of the same magnitude with the overall ratios of 0.82 and 0.84 respectively.



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