

Title: Teamwork makes the dreamwork:  
A collaborative approach to documenting and analyzing language development of Hul'q'umi'num' children



PRESENTER:  
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**BACKGROUND:**

- SFU, Uvic, and Hul'q'umi'num Language & Culture Society in collaboration for ~2 years
- Document and analyze Hul'q'umi'num' language development of second language learners (L2), specifically children from a language nest
- Parents are also SFU Linguistics students studying and learning the language

**HUL'Q'UMI'NUM' SOUND INVENTORY:**

- Consists of 22 sounds not found in English
- Plain and ejective stops contrast
- Ejective stops are prominent in the language
- Cross-linguistic differences in ejective stops => difficulty for L2 learners to acquire
- Native speakers (L1) have longer voice onset time (VOT) in ejective stops than in plain stops = the time between the release of a stop sound and when the voicing begins

Main Research Question: To what extent do children's plain stops contrast with ejective stops?

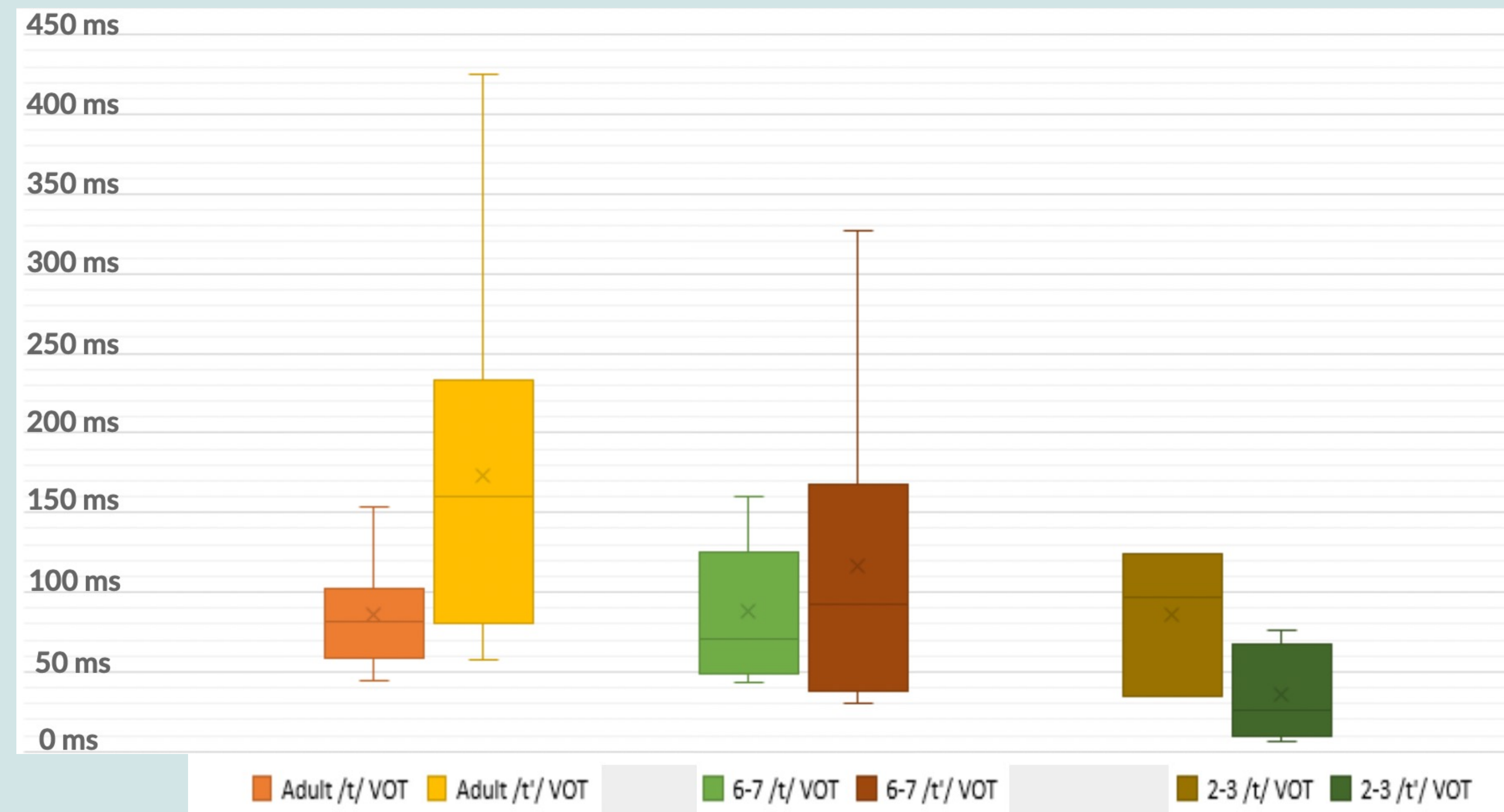
**METHODS:**

1. Collected previous recordings of word repetitions of children aged 2-7
2. Transcribed data into Hul'q'umi'num' orthography and IPA
3. Examined VOT for potential contrast of initial plain stops /t/ & /q/ and ejective stops /t'/ & /q'/
4. Compared child VOT with adult L2 speakers

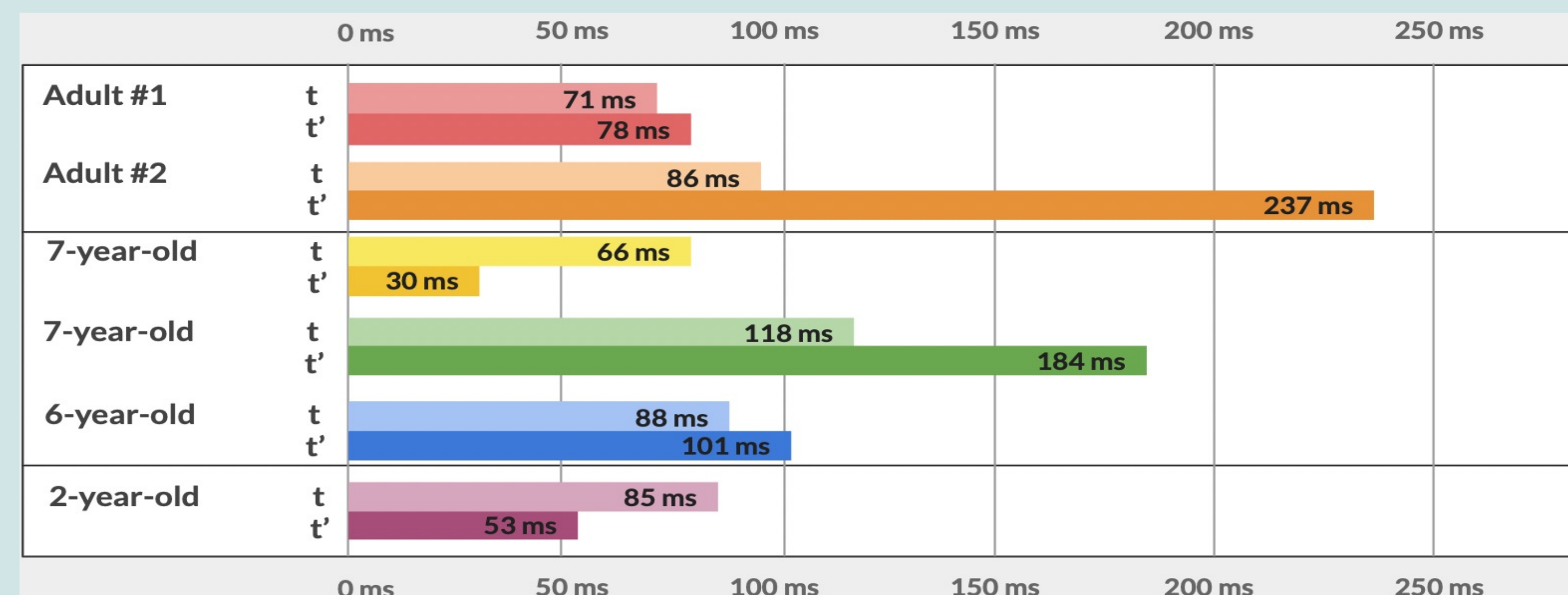
**RESULTS:**

Age Group	Proximity to /t/ sound	Proximity to /t'/ sound	Proximity to /q/ sound	Proximity to /q'/ sound
6-7	7/9	1/6	2/3	1/6
2-3	3/4	0/6	1/1	0/3

# Child VOT of ejective stops becomes more alike to adult VOT in length when the child ages.



## Individual Differences of VOT for /t/-/t'/ contrast



**HUL'Q'UMI'NUM':**

- Spoken on Vancouver Island
- 1 of 10 Central Salish languages
- 40 native speakers
- 200 fluent & 1,000 semi-fluent second language (L2) speakers

**FURTHER RESULTS:**

Age Group	Strategies for /t/	Strategies for /t'/	Strategies for /q/	Strategies for /q'/
6-7	Substitution	Substitution, Vowel Insertion	N/A	Substitution, Cluster Simplification
2-3	Substitution, Deletion	Substitution, Deletion	N/A	Substitution, Syllable Deletion

**DISCUSSION:**

- Our prediction: 6-7 year-olds will produce the ejectives more reliably
- Reality: For all ages, few ejectives were heard as expected by adult speakers
- Future potential research: Work with the Language Learning and Development Lab at SFU to establish the order of acquisition and phonological processes of specific sounds for this cohort of children

**REFERENCES:**



Scan me

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hay tseep q'u'  
Thank You All

In collaboration with Blair Chartrand, Roseanna George, Martina Joe, Thomas Johnny, Boey Kwan & Dana Shier



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