



Praat for Indigenous Language Learning

Sonya Bird & Rae Anne Claxton

Dates/times: June 20-23, 8:30-10am

Location: SS262

Workshop description

As learners, sometimes it is hard for us to pinpoint exactly what it is that we are not hearing or saying properly; Praat helps us to see this in a very concrete way. This workshop is geared towards people who are interested in fine-tuning their own or others' listening and speaking skills. Over the course of the workshop, participants will learn how to use Praat as a visual aid for hearing and transcribing speech (e.g. stories), as well as for fine-tuning pronunciation, by measuring certain features of speech (e.g. pauses and intonation patterns) and adjusting them to match those of elders and teachers.

Questions we will answer through the workshop

- What is Praat and how can seeing speech help with my language work?
- How can Praat help me visualize ways to improve the way I speak my language?
- How can Praat help me have a closer look at the way my elders speak my language?
- How can Praat help me separate the sounds of my language so that I can transcribe better?

Methods and materials:

- **Methods:** This will be a fully interactive workshop, where participants will be guided through using Praat to support listening and speaking skills. Participants will be able to work on their own or in groups, depending on their interests and on their comfort level with technology.
- **Materials:** an introductory guide to using Praat will be provided in printed and electronic versions. Other materials, including sample audio clips, will be provided and/or recorded as we go.
- **Praat:** www.praat.org
- **Readings:**

Bird, Sonya & Mizuki Miyashita (2018). Teaching phonetics in the context of Indigenous language revitalization. Proc. International Symposium on Applied Phonetics (ISAPh 2018), 39-44, doi: 10.21437/ISAPh.2018-7 https://www.isca-speech.org/archive/pdfs/isaph_2018/bird18b_isaph.pdf

Bird, Sonya, Luschiimtunaat Sonya Charlie, Rae Anne Claxton, S-hwutstus Harvey George, Sq'utxulenuhw George Seymour, Maida Percival (under revision). Seeing speech: Teaching and learning Hul'q'umi'num' pronunciation with Praat. *Language Documentation & Conservation*.

Workshop requirements:

- Equipment: Ideally, participants will bring their own laptop computer and headphones with microphones. We will meet in a computer lab though, and will make do with what we have!
- Supplies: If possible, bring a recording that you would like to work on (e.g. a story you are currently transcribing or learning to tell), preferably one that you find challenging. NOTE: many phones record in mp4a format. Praat can't read these, it reads wav and mp3 formats. You can easily convert the file from mp4a to wav here: <https://www.freeconvert.com/m4a-to-wav>.

Daily schedule

	Topic	Activities
Day 1	Introduction to Praat <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Why we use it, and for what- Downloading Praat- Opening audio files and recording new ones- Creating Textgrids to mark up and annotate audio files	Experimenting with Praat <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Recording a short introduction- Creating a Textgrid to accompany your recording- Identifying and segmenting words and sounds in your recording, using the Textgrid
Day 2	Praat for fine-tuning pronunciation skills <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sounds and sound sequences- Rhythm and inflection	Speaking with Praat <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Using Praat to record your speech and compare it with the speech of an Elder or teacher
Day 3	Praat for fine-tuning listening skills <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Transcribing using Textgrids	Listening with Praat <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Using Textgrids to transcribe speech (e.g. stories)
Day 4	Sharing our work	Sharing circle <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sharing what we used Praat for, and what we think we will use it for in the future