

Re: Misperceptions of Spanish pronunciation?

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From: M. Ranjit Mathews (ranjit_mathews_at_yahoo.com)

Date: 11/21/04

Date: 21 Nov 2004 04:07:10 -0800

uaxuctum@hotmail.com (Javier BF) wrote ...

> *Ruud Harmsen* <realemailseesite01@rudhar.com.invalid> wrote ...
>> 18 Nov 2004 19:20:24 -0800: *ranjit_mathews@yahoo.com* (M. Ranjit Mathews): in *sci.lang*:
>>
>> > *Miguel Carrasquer* <mcv@wxs.nl> wrote ...
>>> *Llave/calle*: <ll> stands for palatal /ʎ/,
>>>
>>> *I find it difficult to imagine how that ought to sound. Is there a sound sample of anyone pronouncing a palatal l as a palatal l (while speaking any language)?*
>>>
> *I can record a sample of my own speech and send it to your e-mail if you like.*

Thank you so much. That won't be necessary if this is correct:

http://www.askoxford.com/languages/it/toi_italian/pronunciation/?view_uk

> *Italian "gli" is usually geminate, while Spanish "ll" isn't.*

Yes; the words sound like <tallyatelle> and <fillyo>

> *to me, the natural way to pronounce the phoneme "y" is with a palatal sound, either fricative [j] or affricate [J], and the postalveolar affricate allophone I only use in when it is following an alveolar (as in "cónyuge"). As for Carrasquer's comment about its range of allophones, for me hearing the glide [j] for "y" (or "ll") automatically labels the speaker as a non-native, because [j] I perceive clearly as an allophone of vowel "i" (as in "hierro") and never of consonant "y" (as in "yerro"), so [jo] sounds to me as if they were saying "hio" instead of "yo", which in my experience is a very typical and recognizable trait of foreigners' pronunciation.*

It looks like your "y" is like a French "j"; to me, the difference between vowel [i] and consonant [j] is characterized by the difference between Portuguese "hielo" and English "yellow".

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- > *It would be fine that the guys at IPA decided at long last to*
- > *introduce individual symbols to properly represent the vowel phonemes*
- > *of the third most spoken language (I think those sounds occur in a*
- > *bunch of other languages as well), considering that they have already*
- > *introduced an individual symbol for that Swedish "khsh" sound that*
- > *is merely a dialectal allophone not contrasting phonemically with*
- > *[S].*

The sound is not only in Swedish; it has its own grapheme in Devnagri, is a phoneme in Indian languages and is used by more people than speak Spanish.