The adaptation of the VPAS into Brazilian Portuguese was accomplished and the corpus to be used in the training of judges was built up. Furthermore, the voice quality database necessary for the application of the protocol was recorded, evaluated by expert subjects and integrated into an instructive material. The material was used to train judges and their performance was evaluated. Preliminary data on the analysis of the judges’ performance indicate their progress in evaluating settings of voice quality.

The relevance of the adaptation of the protocol to the analysis of voice disorders and expressive uses of voice quality derives from its potential to investigate compensatory mechanisms used by individuals in cases of voice disorders and its suitability for describing the combination of laryngeal and vocal tract settings used to express attitudes and emotion as well as to consider uses of sound symbolism and sound metaphors.

### Results and Discussion

**Introduction**

The present study aims at presenting the instructional material developed in the Brazilian Portuguese (BP) context to apply the Voice Profile Analysis Scheme-VPAS for the perceptual evaluation of linguistic, paralinguistic, and extralinguistic uses of voice quality settings, such as marking utterance boundaries, conveying attitudes and emotions and indicating physical and pathological conditions.

Preliminary data on the analysis of two evaluation tasks performed by a group of six judges who attended a workshop on VPAS are also presented.

### Methodological procedures

**VPAS adaptation to the Brazilian Portuguese context** followed a comprehensive theoretical critical review of the bases of the model profile.

**Corpus design** took into account the principle of susceptibility proposed by Laver (1980) and made use of the key speech segments as proposed by Mackenzie-Beck (2001).

Audio and video recordings of a group of 14 speakers without voice and speech complaints were collected in studio conditions at the Radio Laboratory at PUCSP, so that most of the settings described in the phonemically-grounded evaluation protocol were complied.

**Recording procedures** included a head set microphone placed at 10cm distance from the speaker’s mouth. Speech signals were monitored by means of the Soundforge software.

Intensities calibration procedures were introduced (1.8k, 80-83 dB, measured with a Radio-Shack Digital Display sound level meter) was played in an acoustic amplifier, at a 5cm distance from the microphone.

The recorded material was evaluated by two experts in the use of the protocol (one linguist and one speech therapist) in order to build up the instructional workshop material.

**Preliminary report on the analysis of voice quality evaluation tasks**

**Workshop on phonetic description on voice quality**

A six-judge group, composed by speech therapists and linguists, was trained for a 10 VPAS (20-hour workshop-3 sessions).

At the first session (Stage 1), judges were requested to listen individually (by headphones) and judge a corpus of 20 samples of settings of voice quality produced by 12 participants who were recorded with a microphone directly into the computer. They were requested to fill in the VPAS profile.

At the last session of the workshop (Stage 2), they judged the same samples presented in the first session so that their level of ratings of voice quality could be compared. The same application procedures were used in the first and last sessions. The results were compared to those of the two experts.

The total number of judgements varied in function of the occurrence or co-occurrence of specific settings in the samples.

**Conclusions**

The adaptation of the VPAS into Brazilian Portuguese was accomplished and the corpus to be used in the training of judges was built up. Furthermore, the voice quality database was recorded, evaluated by expert subjects and integrated into an instructive material. The material was used to train judges and their performance was evaluated. Preliminary data on the analysis of the judges’ performance indicate their progress in evaluating settings of voice quality.

The relevance of the adaptation of the protocol to the analysis of voice disorders and expressive uses of voice quality derives from its potential to investigate compensatory mechanisms used by individuals in cases of voice disorders and its suitability for describing the combination of laryngeal and vocal tract settings used to express attitudes and emotion as well as to consider uses of sound symbolism and sound metaphors.

### References

This study was supported by the Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo - Process FAPESP 05/5994-6.

**Acknowledgments**

The authors would like to thank the judges who participated in the evaluation of the voice quality settings.

**Dataset**

The dataset contains information about the voice quality settings and the judges’ evaluations. It includes a detailed description of the voice samples and the results of the evaluations.

**Speech Prosody 2008: Fourth Conference on Speech Prosody**

May 6-9, 2008, Campinas, Brazil