

## Portuñol

- A Portuguese-Spanish contact language
- Spoken in the border regions of Uruguay and Brazil
- Speakers are locally referred to as *Doble Chapa*.

## Research question

*How do Portuñol speakers, with L1 Spanish, realize nasal vowels from Portuguese in Portuñol?*

We want to know how L1 Spanish speakers, who speak Portuñol, accommodate nasal vowels in words like *lã* /lã/ 'wool', *ponte* [poŋtʃi] 'bridge', *maçã* [ma'sẽ] 'apple', *bom* [boŋ] 'good', and *pomba* [poŋba].

## Methods

- Participants: 3 Portuñol speakers residing on the Brazil-Uruguay border region with L1 Spanish.
- Visual stimuli were presented to elicit targeted words containing vowels of interest.
- Speech was analyzed using the Earbuds Method (Stewart & Kohlberger, 2017)
- The study makes use of amplitude (Pascals) and intensity (dB) fluctuations to better understand temporal cues of nasality in Portuñol words.

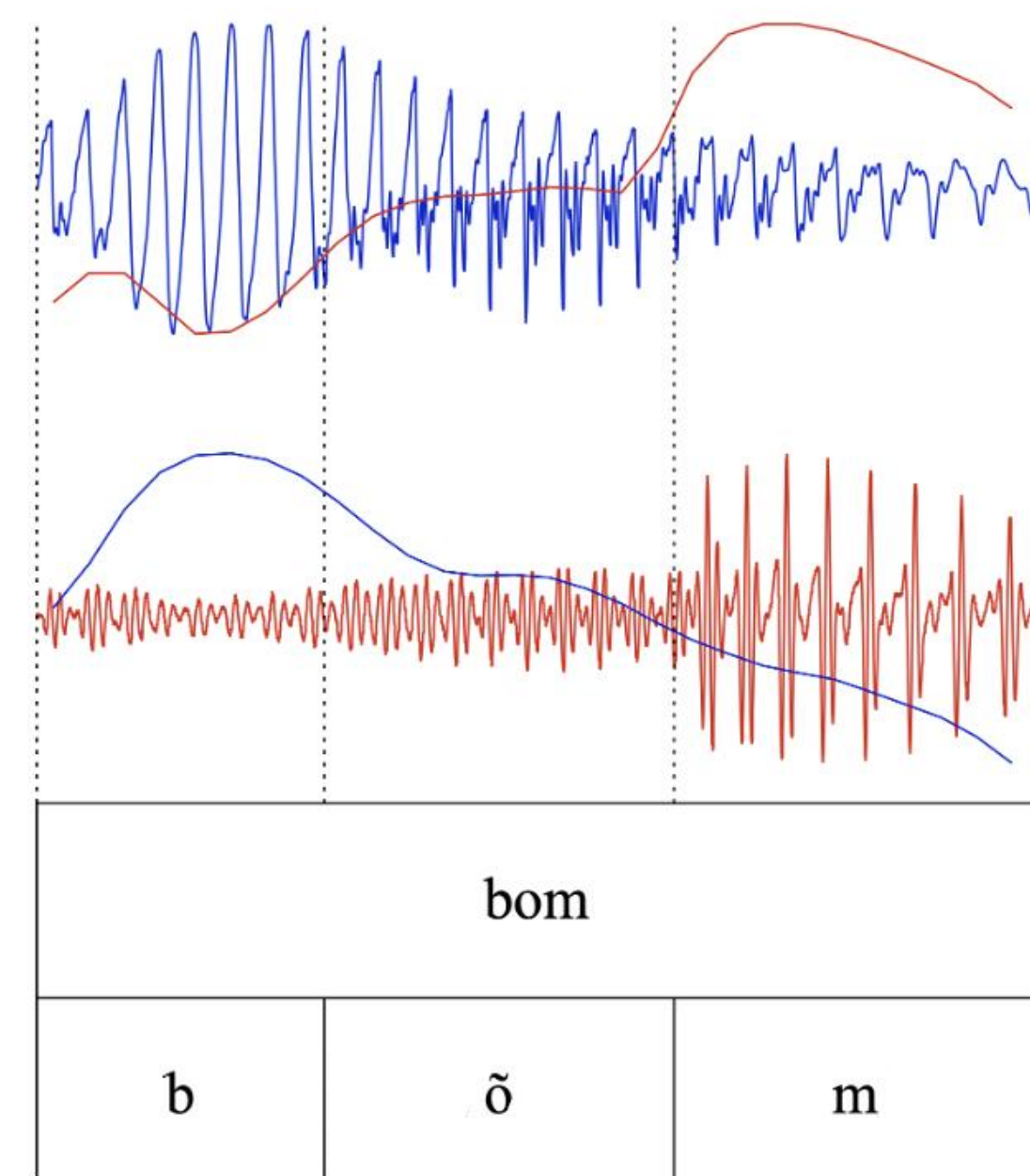


Figure 5: *bom*/ *bueno* good produced as [bõm]

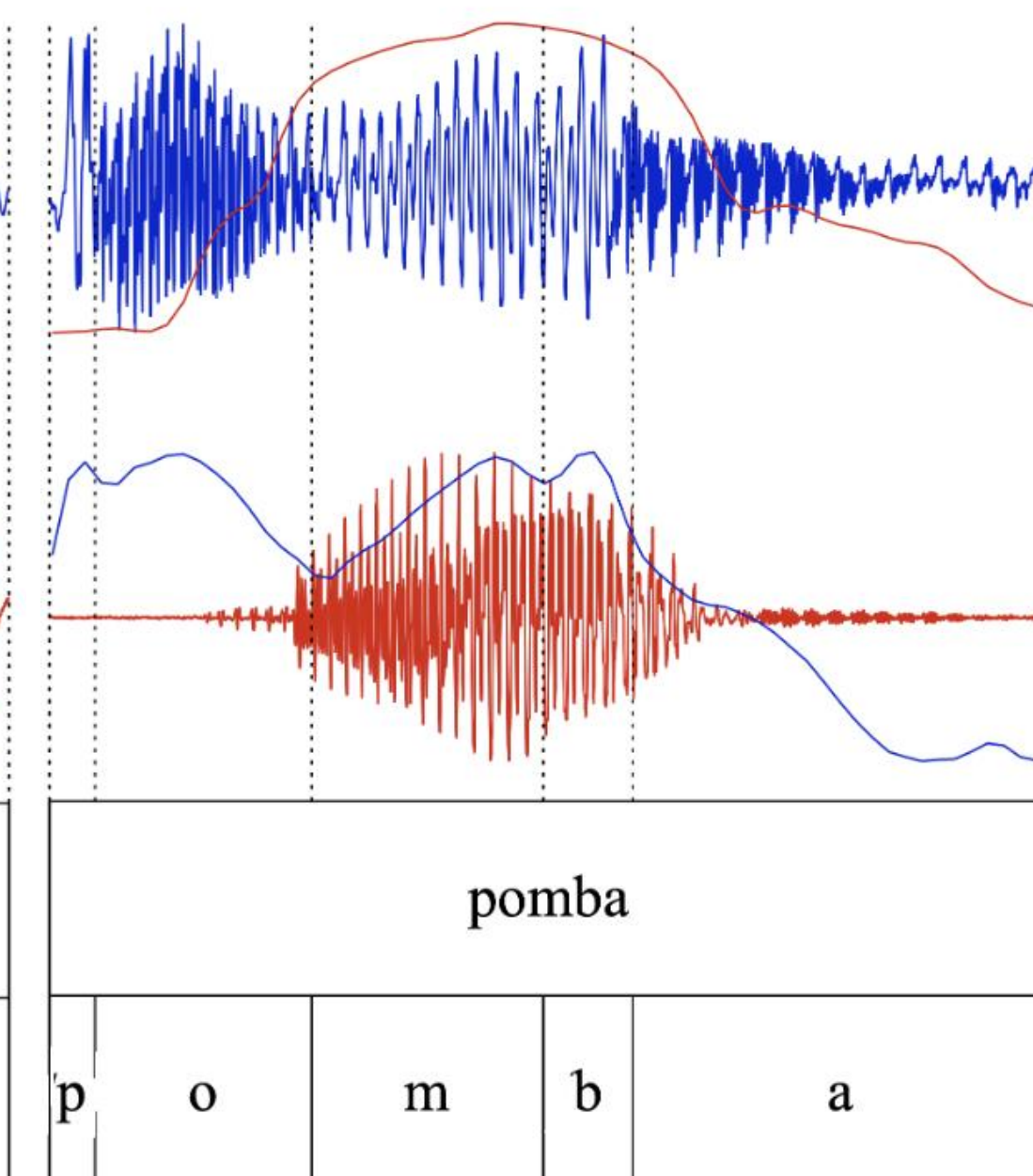


Figure 6: *pomba*/ *paloma* dove produced as [põmba]

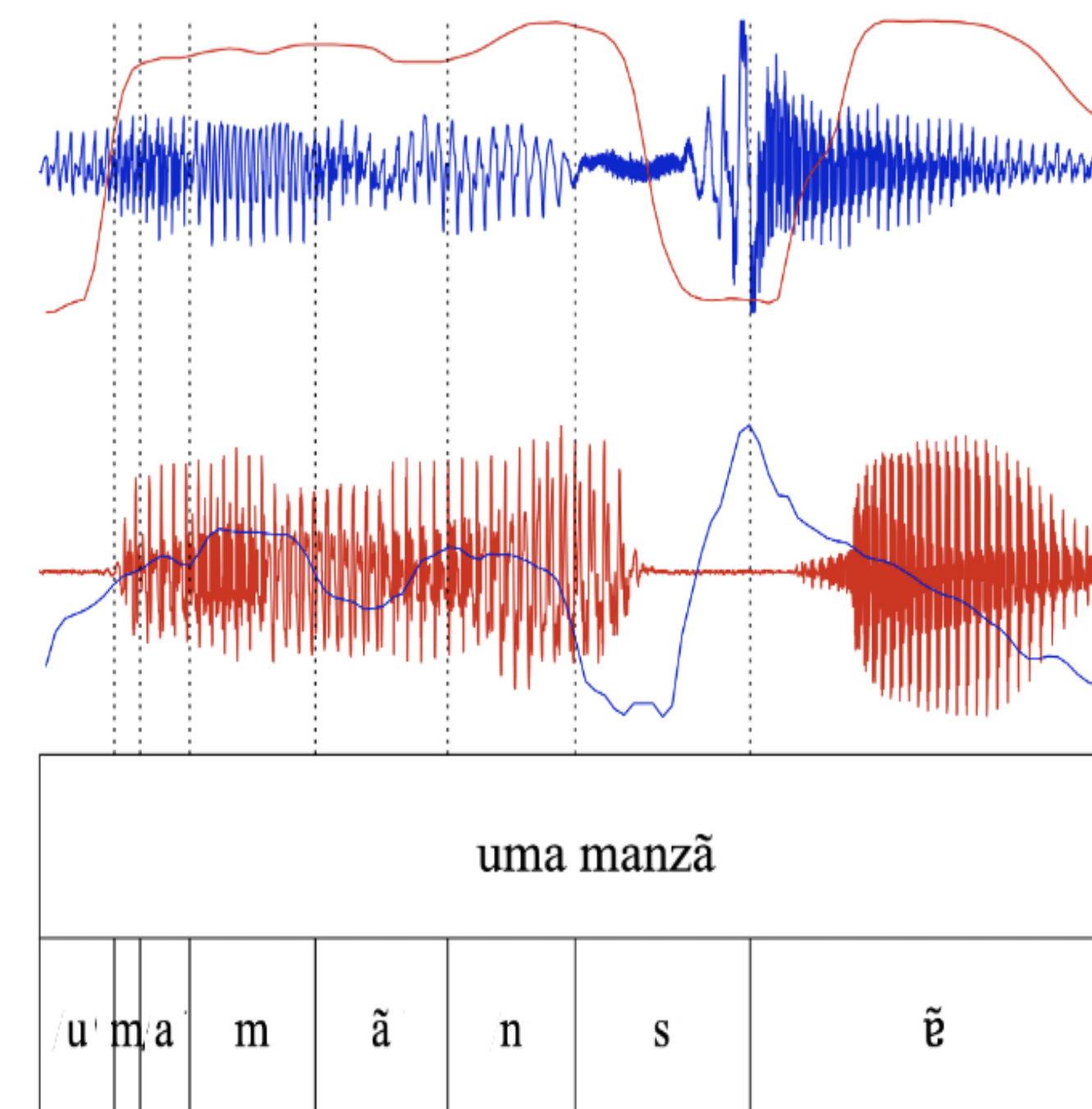


Figure 7: *maçã*/ *manzana* apple produced as [mãnsẽ]

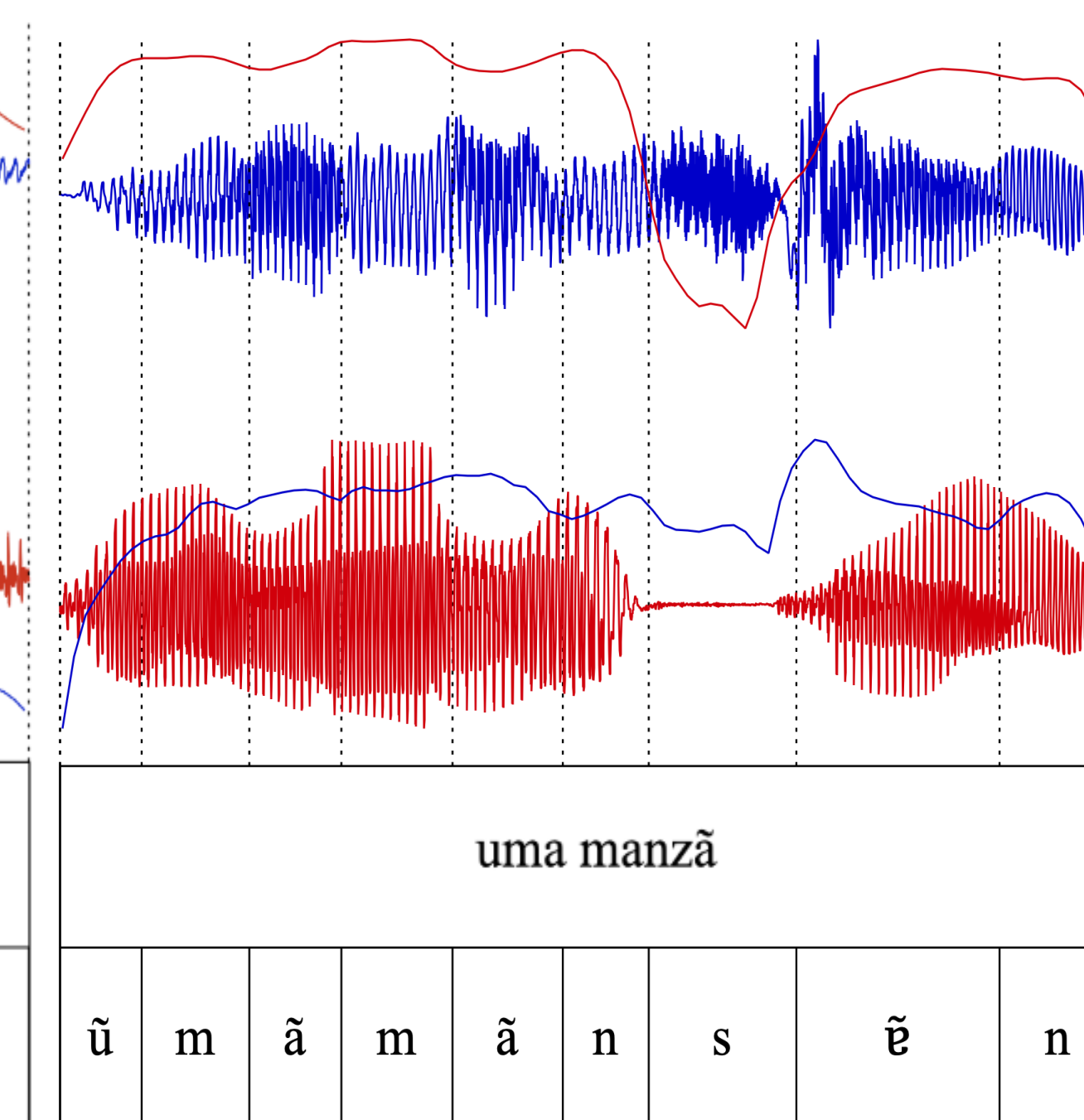


Figure 8: *maçã*/ *manzana* apple produced as [mãnsẽ̃]

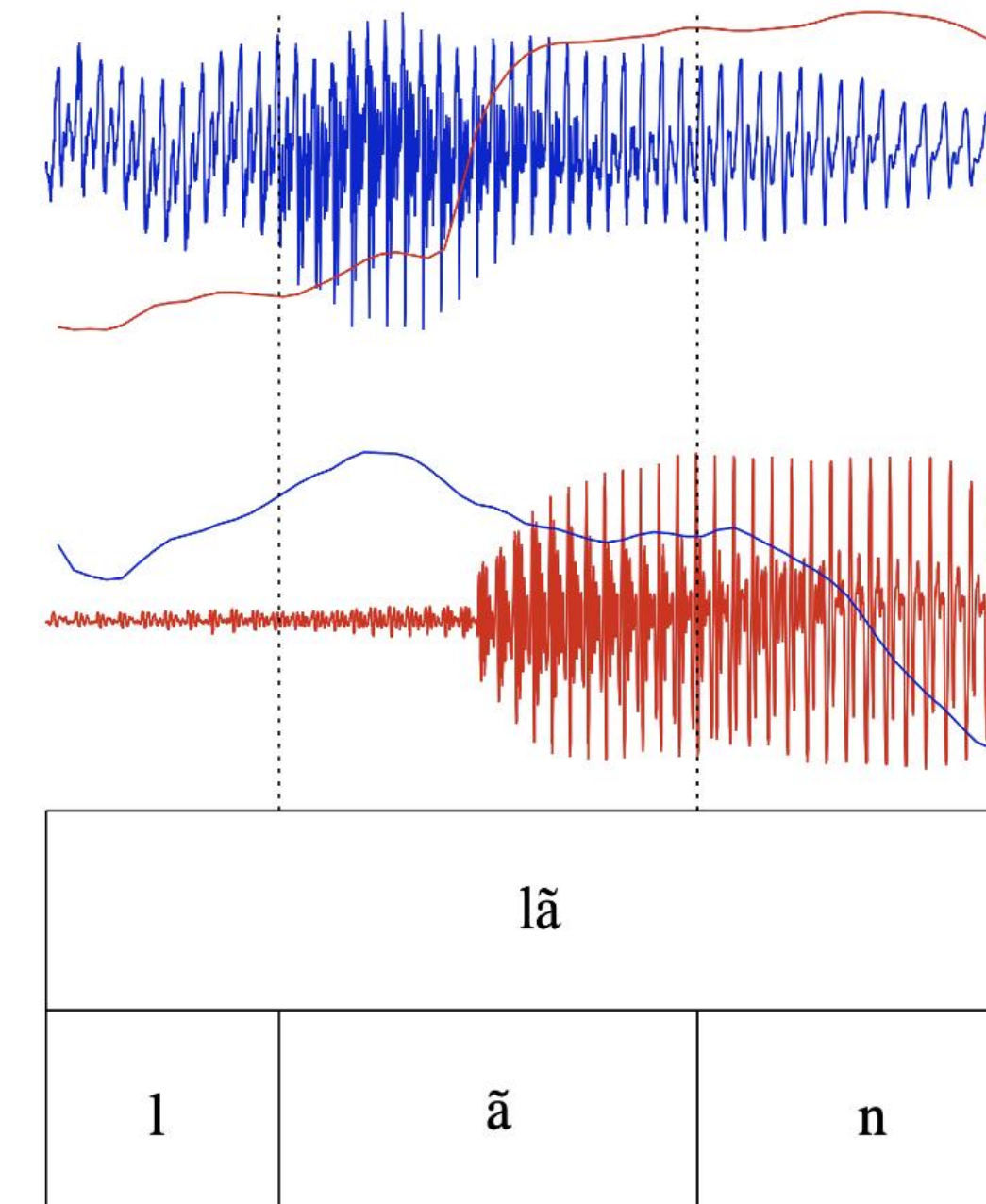


Figure 1: *lã*/ *lana* wool produced as [lãn]

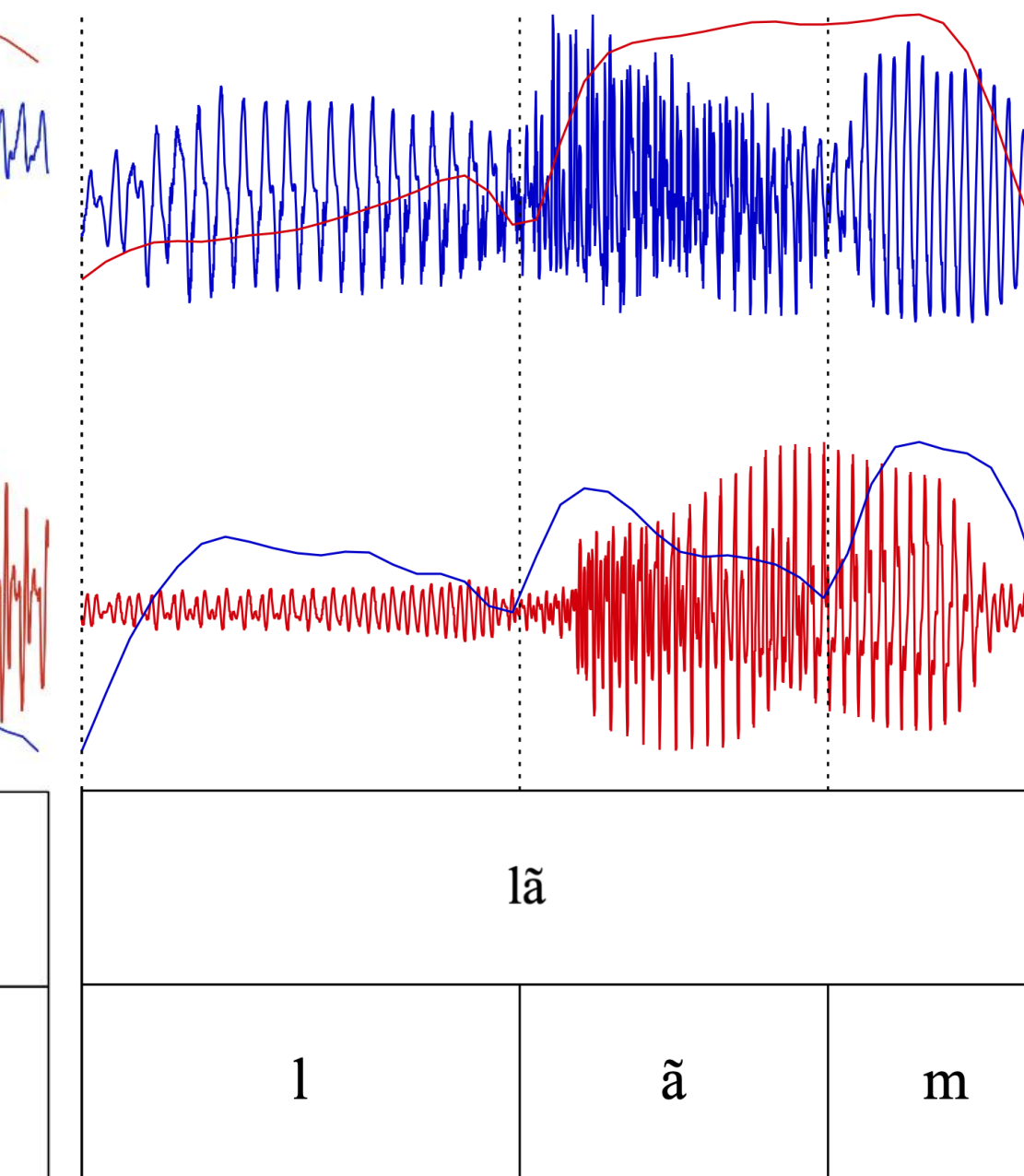


Figure 2: *lã*/ *lana* wool produced as [lãm]

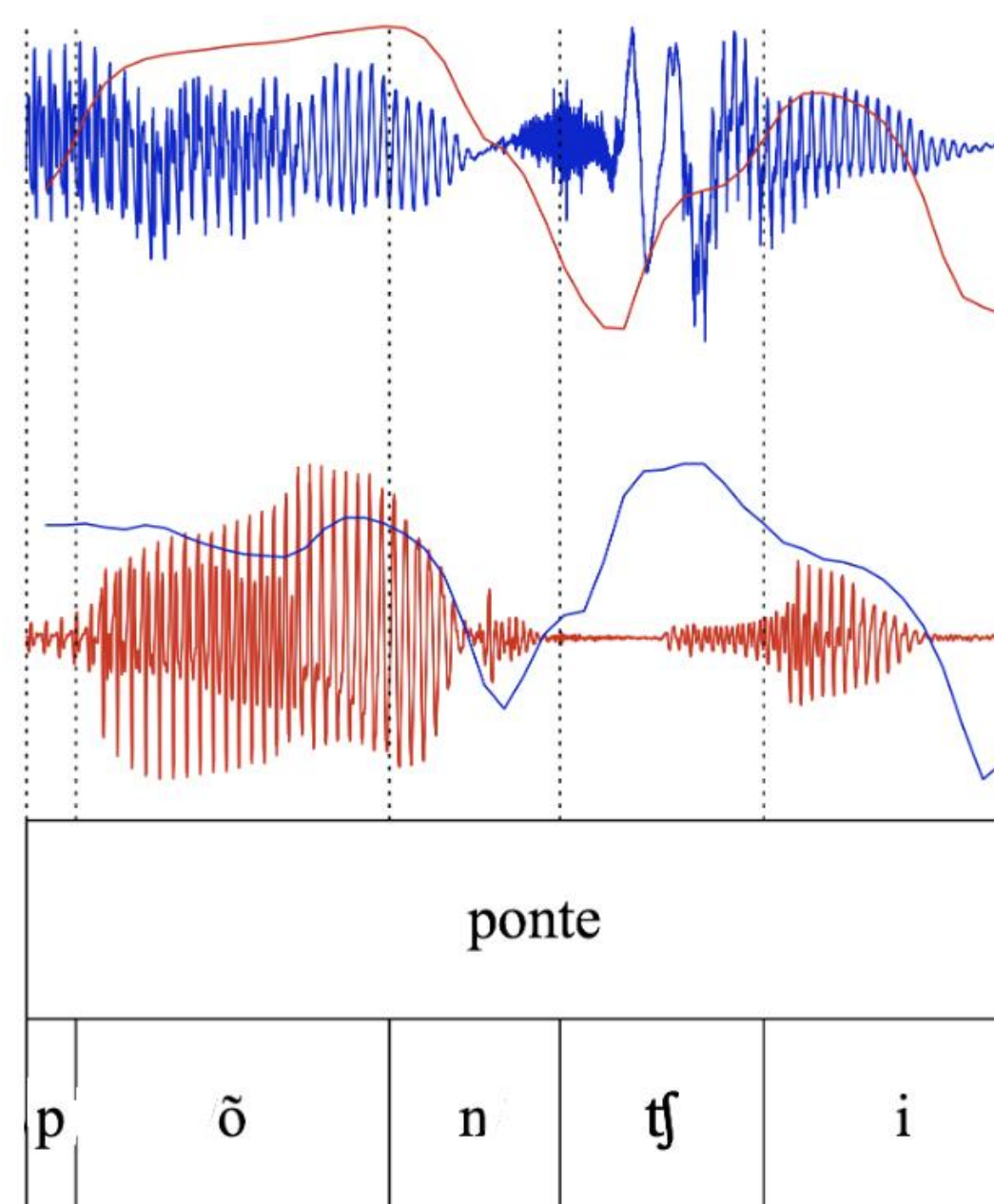


Figure 3: *ponte*/ *puente* bridge produced as [põntʃi]

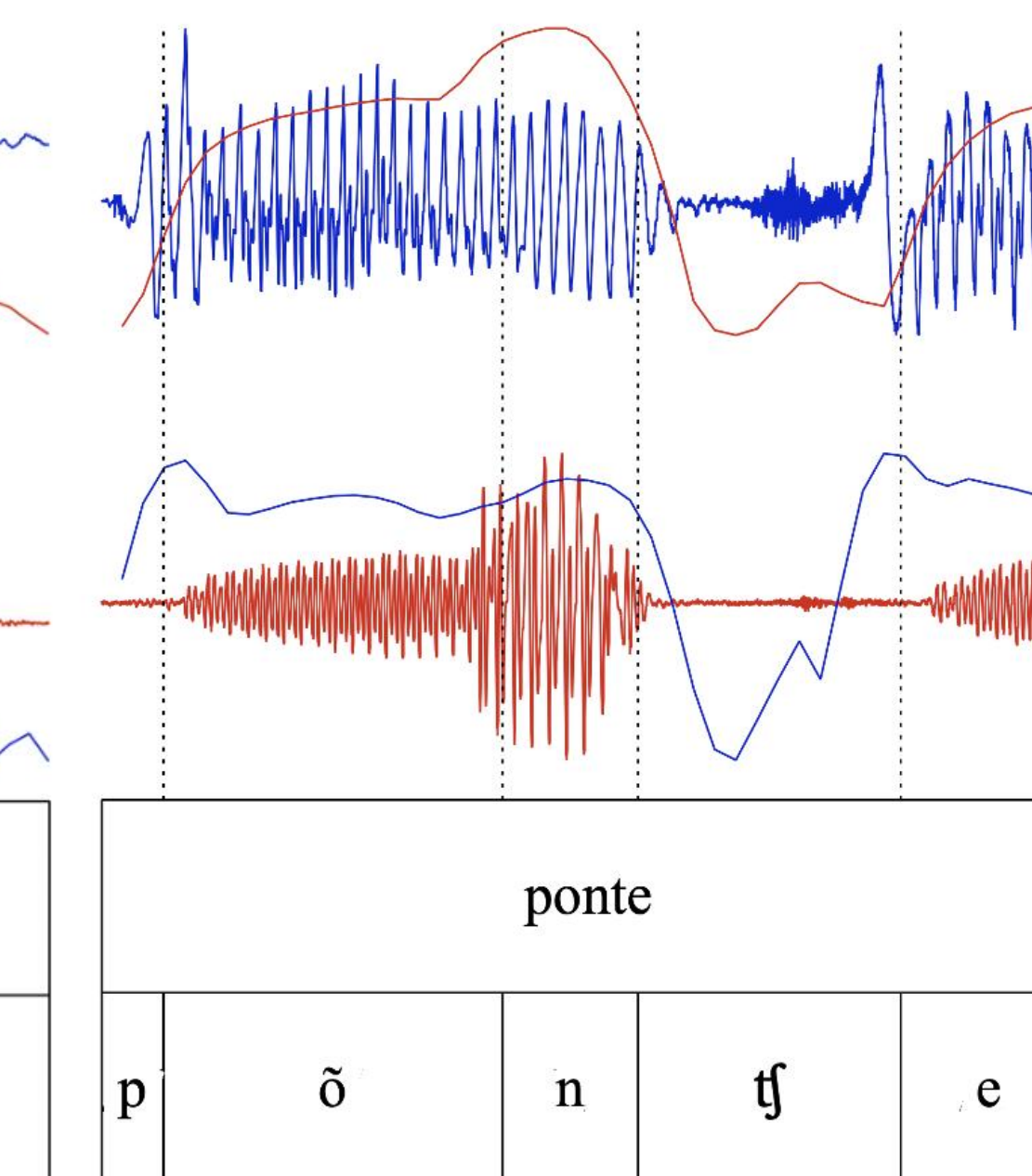


Figure 4: *ponte*/ *puente* bridge produced as [põntʃe]

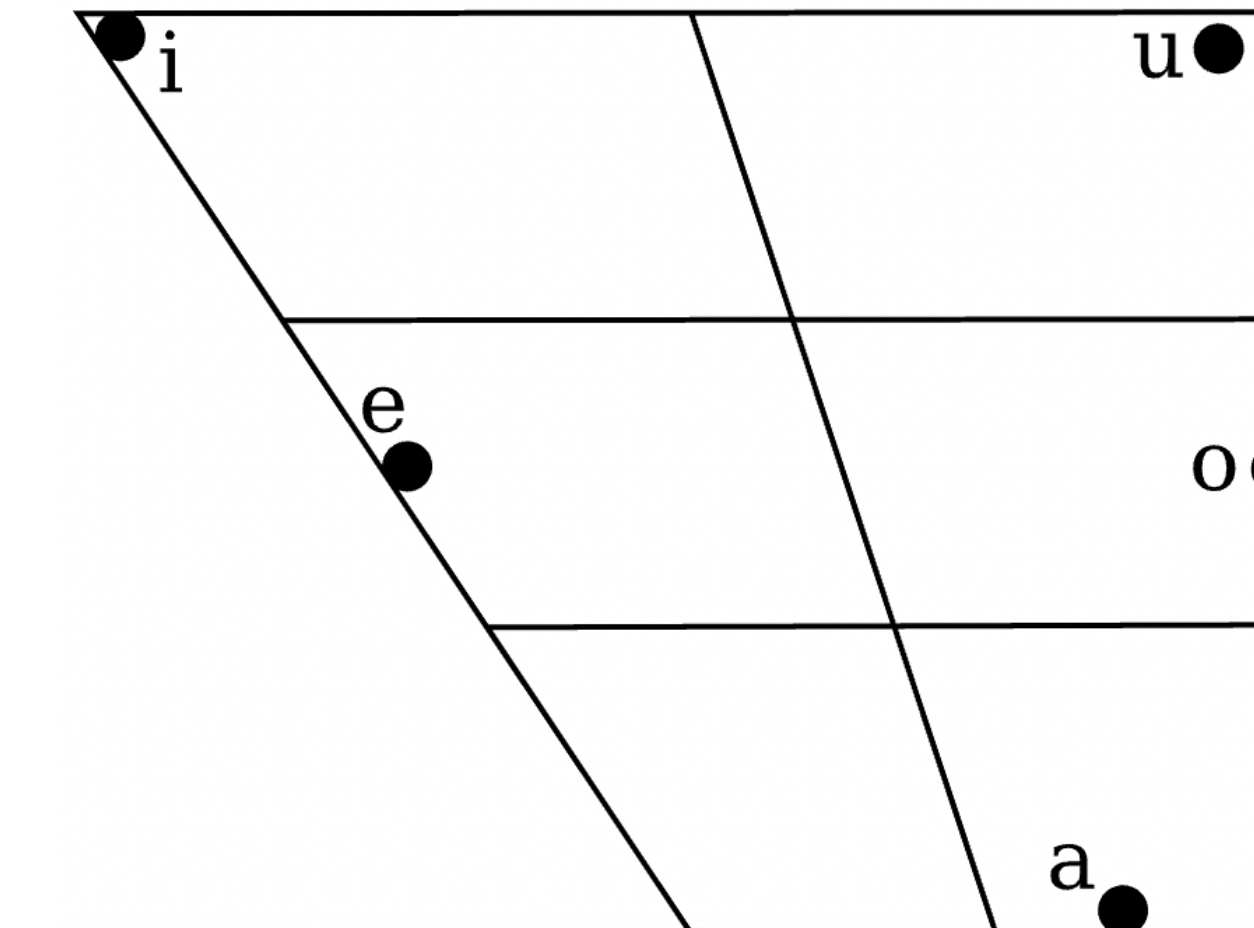


Figure 9: Spanish vowel chart

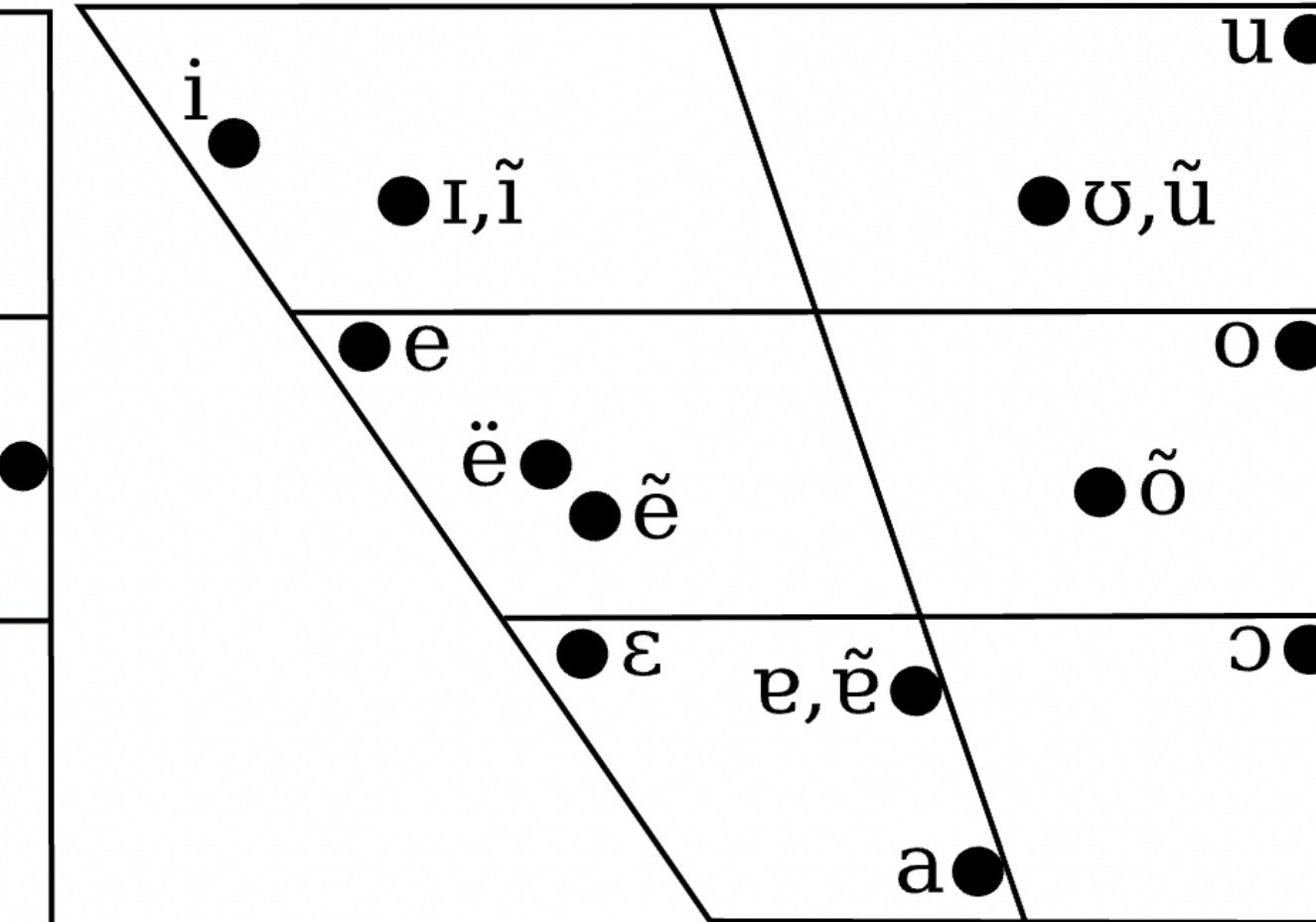


Figure 10: Brazilian Portuguese vowel chart

## Discussion

In numerous cases, nasal consonants from Spanish cognates were inserted into words that were otherwise Portuguese.

The nasal consonant-insertion may reflect a unique phonological adaptation in Portuñol, that allows L1 Spanish speakers to better accommodate Portuguese nasal vowels.

This suggests that *Portuñol* has developed some unique innovations— that blend characteristics from both languages but do not strictly follow the phonological rules of either.

These findings contribute to our understanding of how contact languages adapt phonetic traits, reflecting the influence of both Spanish and Portuguese, while also developing a distinct linguistic identity.

## References

- Bailey, A. A. (2013). Similar, yet different: Acquisition of Brazilian Portuguese nasal vowels by Spanish-English bilinguals. *Selected Proceedings of the 16th Hispanic Linguistics Symposium*, 1–12.
- Stewart, J., & Kohlberger, M. (2017). Earbuds: A method for measuring nasality in the field. *Language Documentation and Conservation*, 11, 49–80.