

1. Background and Research Question

- **Speech representations:** mental encodings that link pronunciation to meaning.
- Previous research indicates that language users store fine-grained phonetic and social detail in speech representations.
 - Talker's gender (Johnson, 1997)
 - Talker's race (Babel, 2012)
 - Familiarity with the talker (Goldinger, 1998)
 - Acoustic properties like pitch, vowel quality (Goldrick & Cole, 2023)
- Experience with language shapes one's future speech production
- Research Question: **Does the perceived social status of a voice influence the extent to which it affects a listener's speech?**

2. Punjabi and Social Class in Pakistan



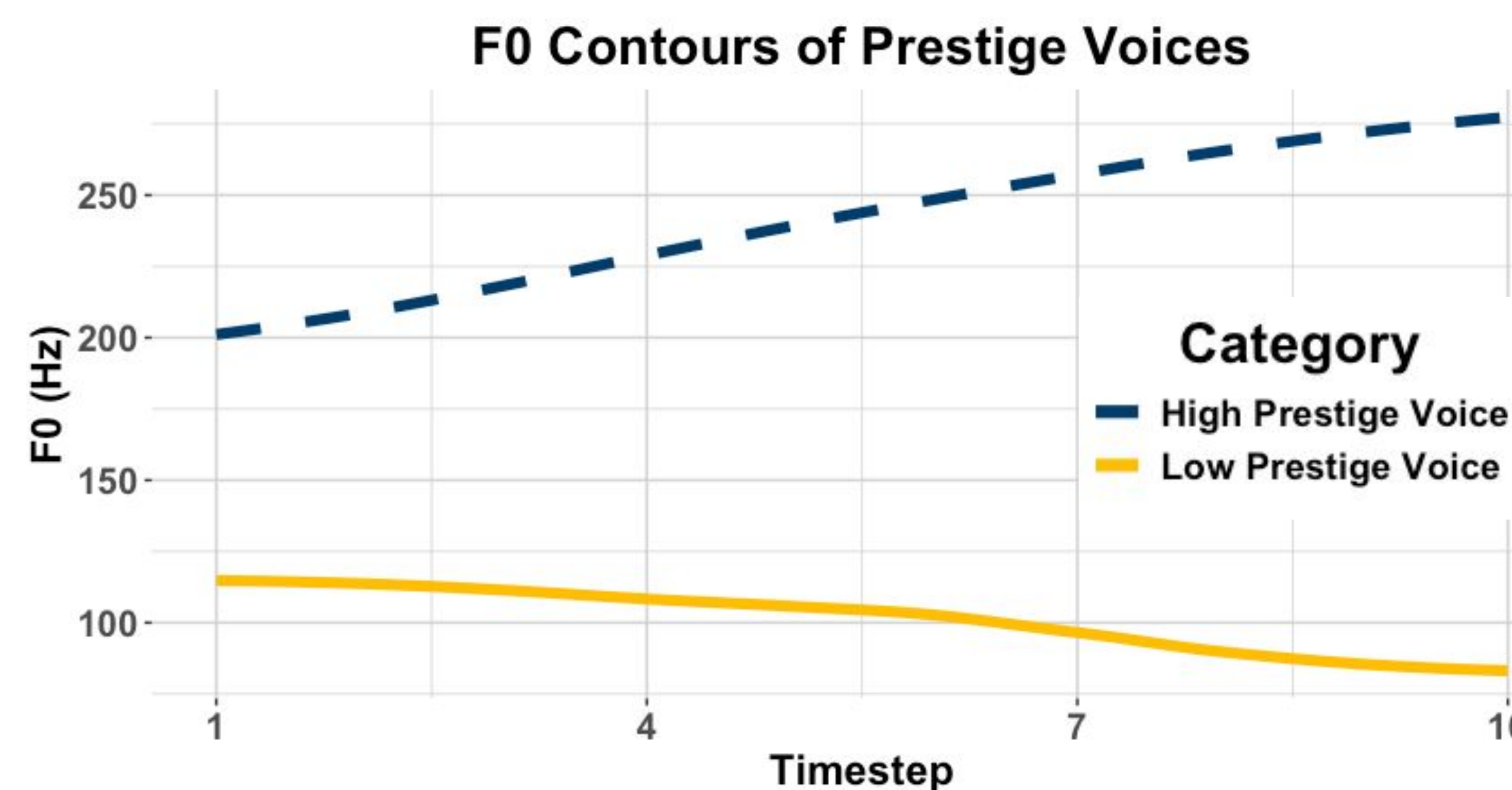
- Native language of ~78 million people in Pakistan
- Written in Shahmukhi script
- **بان** [bā:] 'arm'
- Highly stratified social structure: wealth, education, and urban-rural divides.
- Urdu & English: prestige and upward mobility
- Regional languages: mark identity but lower prestige

3. Five-phase Experimental Design

1. Warm-up → Silently familiarized with the words
2. Baseline → Read words aloud to record baseline pronunciation
3. Listening → Listened to lower and upper class voices with photos
4. Shadowing → Repeated aloud after each voice (immediate)
5. Post-production → Final pronunciation of words (delayed)

Pilot study with a single participant

4. Voices and Prestige

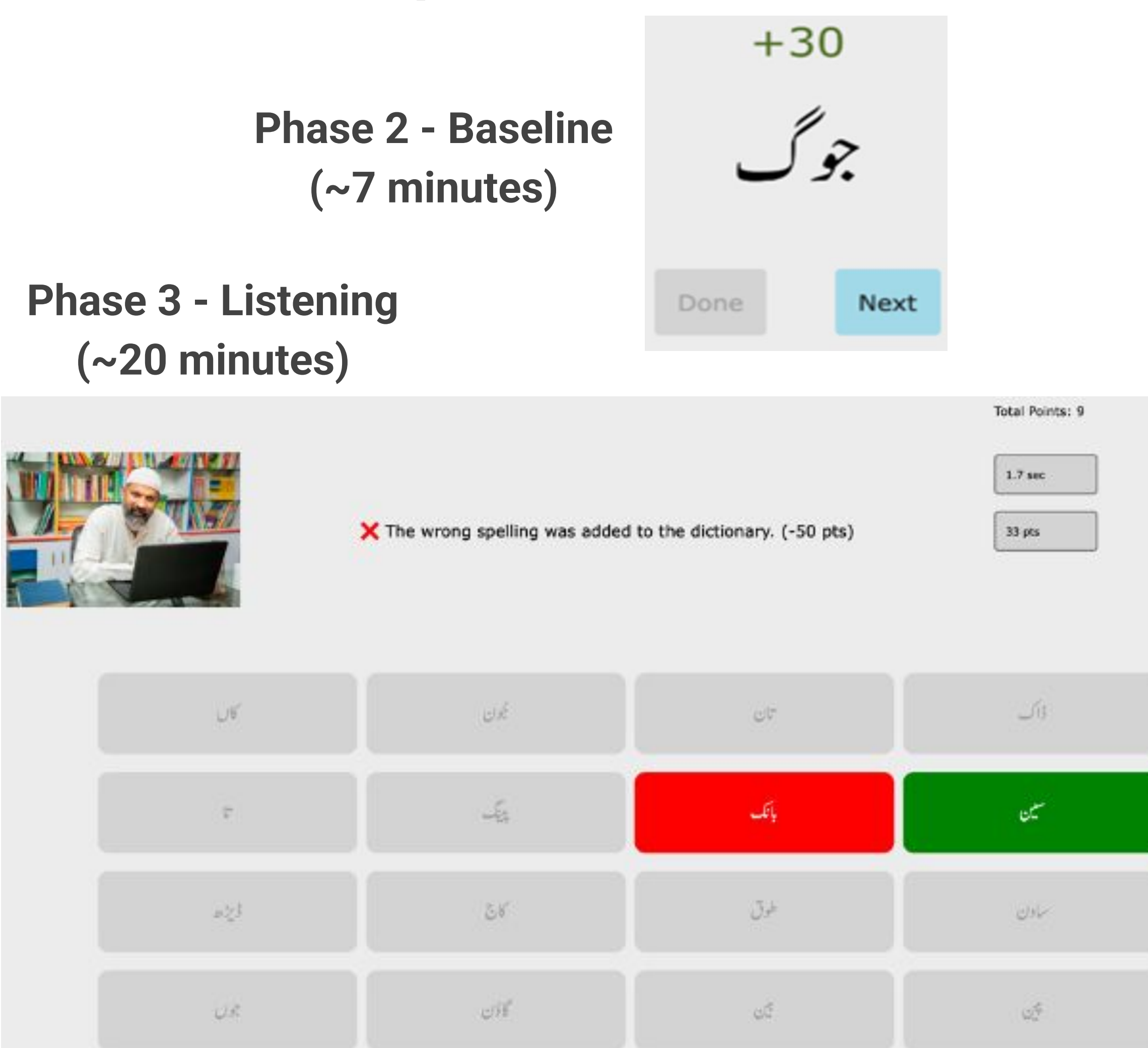


Low Prestige Voice
Brick-kiln laborer
learning to read



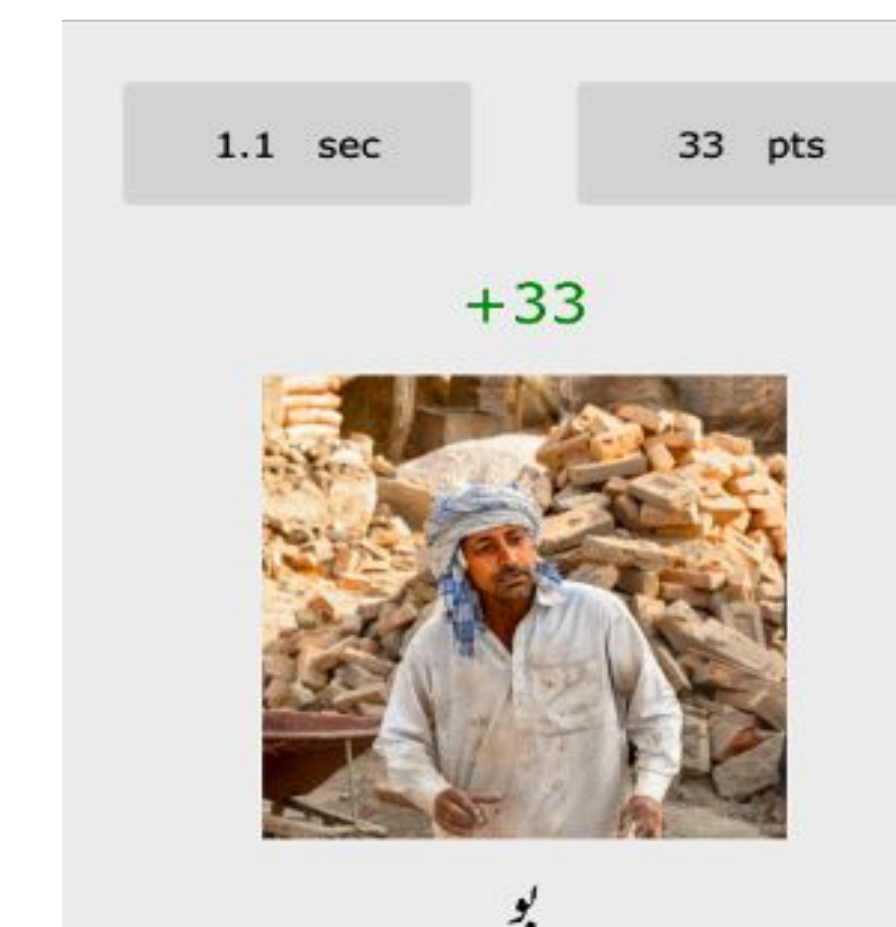
High Prestige Voice
Punjabi Scholar
compiling a dictionary

5a. Experiment Interface

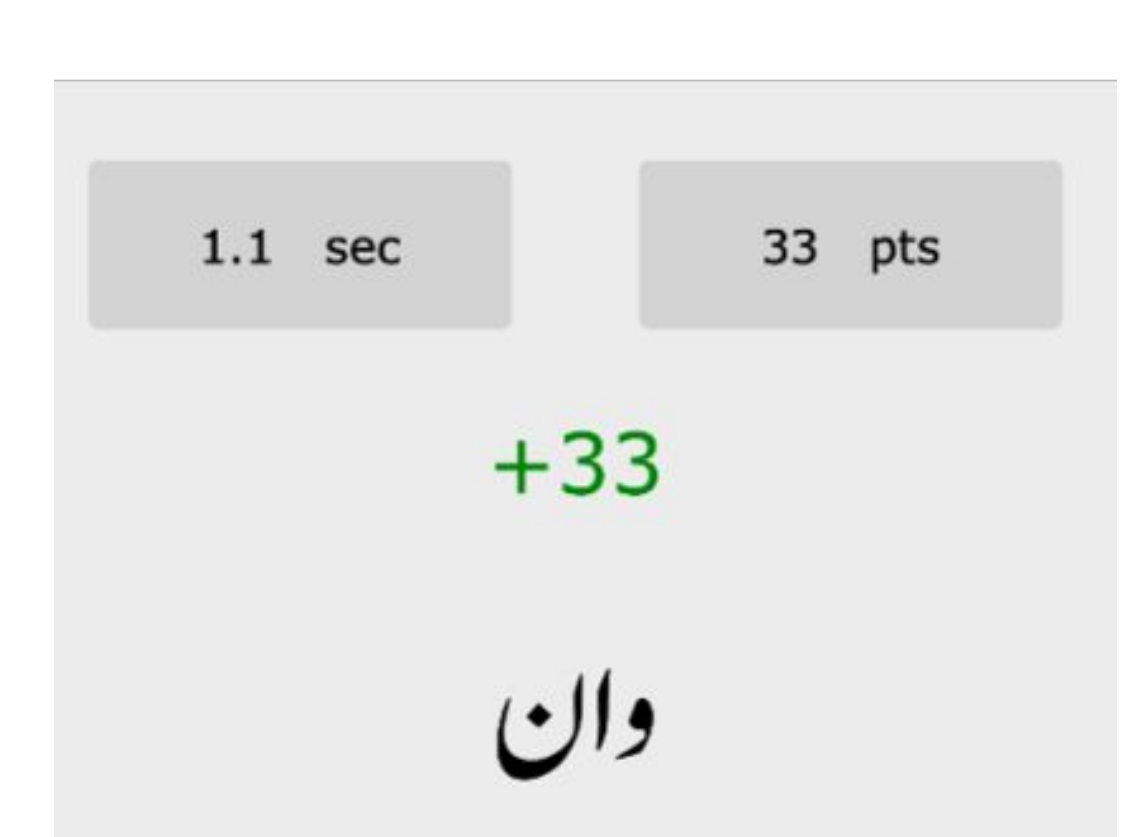


5b. Experiment Interface

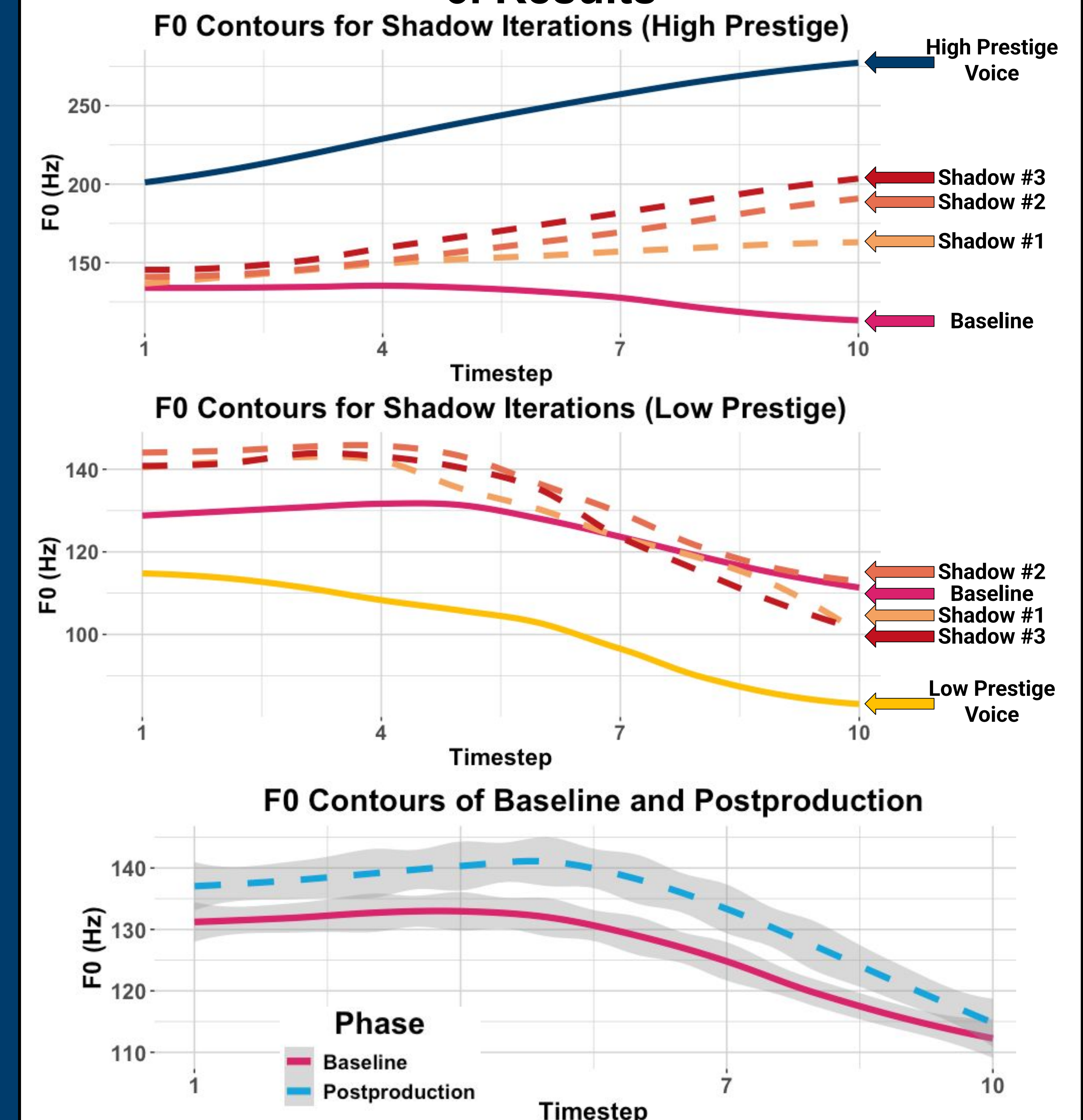
Phase 4 - Shadowing
(~12 minutes)



Phase 5 - Post-production
(~5 minutes)



6. Results



7. Findings & Implications

- High-prestige voices exert greater influence on speech adaptation than low-prestige voices.
- Findings could help explain how language change is initiated.
- Future directions: Vary which voice is presented as high- vs. low-prestige across participants