

BACKGROUND

- Tourette syndrome (TS): neurological condition causing unwanted movements and vocalizations called tics [1]
- Verbal tics: mimic words or phrases but are automatic responses to preceding urges & lack linguistic/communicative intent
- Tics interact with prosody: separate research showed that tics reliably occur *between*, not within, intonational phrases (IPs)

Ticcing is sensitive to IP-level prosodic structure. Are tics subject to IP-boundary effects?

HYPOTHESIS & PREDICTIONS

- Task of prosody: phrasal organization of words, encoding intended meaning [2]
- Temporal signatures of prosodic phrasing: English words longer Phrase-finally than in Phrase-medial (unaccented) positions [3]
- **Hypothesis: Tics do not encode information and so, tics should not be “prosodified” phrasally**

PREDICTION 1: True Word Duration will shrink/stretch as a function of Phrasal Position.

PREDICTION 2: Tic Word Duration will **not** be influenced by Faux-prosodic position.

METHOD: TRUE WORD DURATION

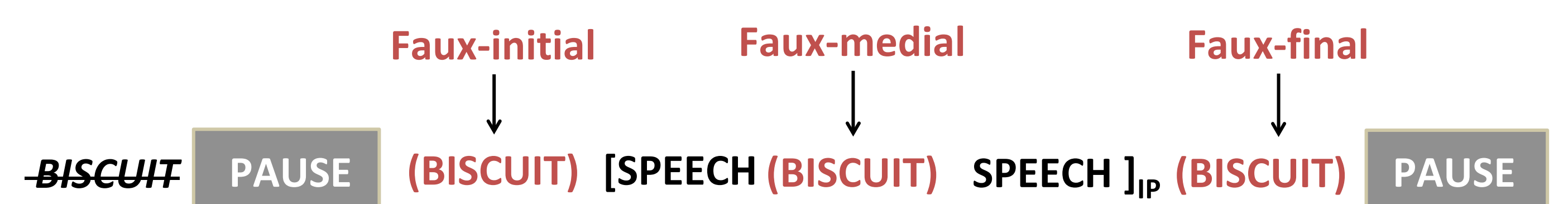
2 British English speakers (F) read True Words isomorphic with Tic Words in Phrase-medial and Phrase-final context:

	Participant 1	Participant 2
Tic/Word	cocktail private	biscuit

Click on link below for sentence frames, audio examples and other supplementary material.

METHOD: FAUX-PROSODY

Duration of **Tic Words** produced sufficiently close to IPs considered for analyses:

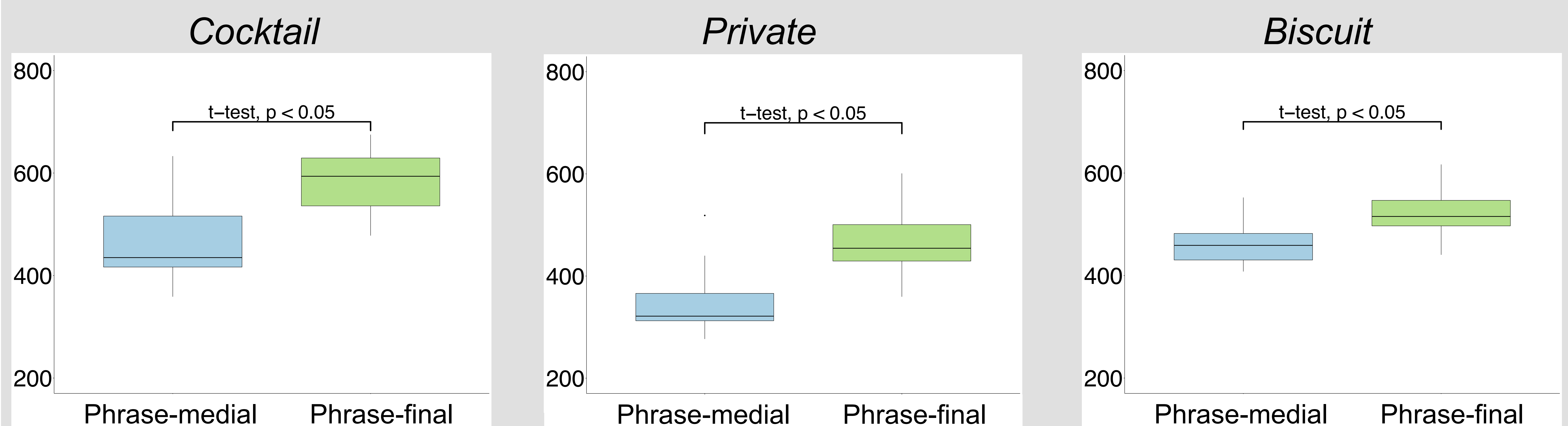


RESULTS

Token-to-token durational variability patterns in True Words and Tic Words support hypothesis.

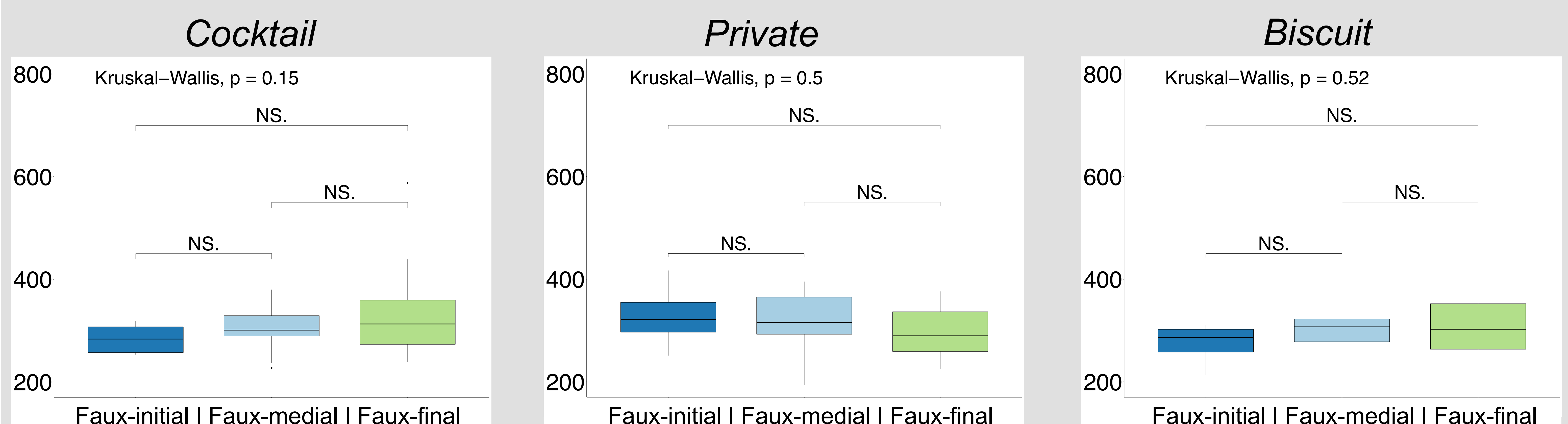
True Words

Phrase-medial True Words are significantly shorter than Phrase-final True Words.



Tic Words

Isomorphic Tic Words do not vary as a function of Faux-prosodic positions.



DISCUSSION

- English phrase boundary effects spare tic words even when they closely precede or follow true words that form part of a true IP—follows from prosody’s link to structure of information intended
- “Bare” verbal tics could be model for word-production free of phrasal prosody—examination of token-to-token variability in other facets of word-level phonetics possible via study of tics

List of references and other supplementary material can be found here:

<https://www.notion.so/mairymllorensmonteserin/Mairym-Llorens-Monteser-n-Supplementary-Material-ISSP-2020-f82e37520da640a3a58be3e94007d5d6>