

GENDER-BASED PHONOLOGICAL ANALYSIS IN NON- NATIVE SELECTED TENNIS PLAYERS' SPEECHES

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ABSTRACT: *This study is a phonological analysis of a kind of spoken discourse. It sheds light on English speeches of tennis players who are from different nationalities, but they speak English as their second or third language. This speech event is important in that a speech is given in a formal setting for a huge number of audience and it is characterized as being unplanned. Immediately after the final game, the two players; the winner of the match and his opponent, are to deliver a short speech. The study aims to examine, phonologically, the speeches of those nonnative players against the BBC accent. It focuses on whether male and female speeches are different or not and to what extent. It is hypothesized that the mismatch lies mainly in allophonic variations, let alone accent and intonation. It analyzes two spoken texts given on the court in the final game. The data are videos taken from "You tube" and they include the final part of championships when the trophies are presented to both players. They deliver a speech to express their feelings and viewpoints. This study is of interest to those interested in second language phonology, gender-based phonological differences and spoken discourse analysts.*

KEYWORDS: Gender, English Speech, Tennis Player, Phonological, Language

INTRODUCTION

Sport of Tennis

Sports are connected to major spheres of social life, including the family, media, education, economy and even politics. This is why sports are topics which grasp the attention of sociologists and anyone who is interested in social life and its activities. Tennis is one of the worldwide event capturing the interest of millions of people. According to Kramer (1977: 6), it is a very unpredictable game. One cannot be sure of the results till the last point of the game.

The origin of tennis had been in France; this game was invented by the members of the French royalty. Then, it became associated with wealth and aristocracy (Litz, 1978: 11). According to Sordello (1965: 936f), females tennis players started playing tennis from the beginning, but their entry into competitive tournaments was delayed. Tennis is played either individually against a single opponent (singles: males or females), or between two teams of two players each (doubles: males or females).

Emotional Effects

Tennis players face hard moments like injury, poor weather, bad luck or playing against a very weak or strong opponent. They have to handle such emotional toughness; otherwise, they fail. If the player does not control her/his emotions, s/he will be under stress which might be similar to a balloon floating just above the player's head throughout the course of each match. Each

time the player makes a mistake, frustrations begin to accumulate inside the balloon; the player has to control her/his emotions lest the balloon bursts (Giampaolo, 2013: 150).

Tennis players may win or lose; they have to handle both. There is fear inside them. Losing a game is supposed to be something to learn from and a step forward not to take it personally. Fear of success is common, unlike fear of failure which is acknowledged, among players who taste winning because this will put pressure on them not to lose. This pressure on the players' shoulders is most likely to appear clearly in their speeches. That is why some speech segments and utterances sound unintelligible to the listeners (the crowd), and may cause misunderstanding if the listeners have a problem decoding the players' speech segments.

Live Interviews

According to Montgomery (2007: 144ff), the notion of interview has passed through historical evolution from "a meeting of persons for the purpose of formal conference on some point" to "a meeting between a representative of the press and someone from whom he seeks to obtain statements for publication". In the interview, there are two participants: the interviewer and the interviewee. In this study, the kind of interview is a live one. Live interviews are characterized by their informality and improvisational brio. They can have "profound consequences for individuals caught up in the real-time pressures of its assembly and delivery" (ibid.: 130). They share the features of spoken discourse as disfluencies (silent pauses, filled pauses, repetition, false start, etc.), backchannels, nonstandard grammar, hedges, discourse markers, repairs, and so on.

Public Speaking: A presentation often involves anxiety; it comes with speaking in public. O'Rourke (2008: 2) argues "Even experienced speakers can feel flustered, sweaty and anxious". That is a perfectly natural reaction to a seemingly threatening situation. If you know you're being evaluated, you feel even more threatened. Public speaking is not an easy task; especially when one has to face the crowd and how to make control of himself. Public speaking is a learned skill. People with very little natural ability have become famous public speakers by the time they reach their twenties and thirties (ibid.:3).

Role of the Audience: Tennis is different from other kinds of sport because the match can last for hours. The audience or the crowd keep looking at the players' movements and moods. Nowadays, the tennis player is in a place alongside the film star as an icon of glamour and beauty in addition to the fast growing technology (Wilson, 2014: 3). People watching the game do not focus on the players, but they keep their attention on the ball going back and forth across the net.

Johnstone (2008: 144) explains that, in some discourses, the crowd are represented as passive listeners whose emotions and beliefs have to be analyzed in terms of what the speaker says. In other discourses, the members of the crowd can be active co-participants, as in interacting with the players. The crowd have an effective role on court. They do not only support the players, but they put pressure on them. They have two main roles to play:

1. Positive role: this is when they support their players especially, if the player is from their country and the championship takes place at that country. Their job is putting pressure on the other one.
2. Negative role: this is when they annoy and disturb the opponent by shouting at him or making noises in order not to let him focus.

Gender Differences

The term *sex* has often been used to refer to the physiological distinction between females and males, with *gender* referring to the social and cultural elaboration of the sex difference - a process that restricts our social roles, opportunities, and expectations. Since the process begins at birth, it could be argued that “gender” is the more appropriate term to use for the category than *sex*.

According to (Cheshire, 2007: 3), there are few reports in the research literature on the exclusive use of one phonological variant by women and another by men. However, it is far more frequent to find sex-preferential variation, where women in a community, say, use one variant more frequently than men. For example, many sociolinguistic surveys carried out in the English-speaking world have shown that, for the (ing) variable (in words such as running or laughing), men use a higher proportion of the alveolar /n/ variant than women in their social class. Conversely, women use a higher proportion of the velar plosive. It is usual for researchers to see one of the variants as “standard or overtly prestigious, usually on the grounds that this variant is used with an increased frequency in more formal speech styles”. Most research is concerned with the linguistic differentiation of women and men, as Labov (1990: 205) maintains. He summarizes these results in the principles below (1990: 210, 213, 215):

Principle I: In stable sociolinguistic stratification, men use a higher frequency of nonstandard forms than women.

Principle Ia: In change from above, women favour the incoming prestige forms more than men.

Principle II: In change from below, women are most often the innovators.

From a linguistic point of view, many studies tackled the differences between “females’ language” and “males’ language” in a number of ways including how females tend to use tentative and deferential style which reveals their relative lack of success in the corporate world (Walsh, 1997: 79). Lakoff (1975) argues that women use linguistic features of tentativeness and powerless like tag questions or declaratives with rising intonation relevant to her status to men, as cited in Ehrlich (2007: 306).

Phonologically speaking, males and females are different in the way that their vocal folds vibrate. Roach (2009: 24) explains that “When the edges of the vocal folds are touching each other, air passing through the glottis will usually cause vibration”. So, the air, coming from the lungs, pushes the vocal folds apart and a little air escapes. As the air flows quickly past the edges of the vocal folds, they are brought together again. The process of opening and closing occurs in a rapid way; it is repeated roughly and regularly between “two and three hundred times per second in women’s voice and about half that rate in an adult men’s voice”.

Spoken Discourse and Phonology

Phonetics is the science that studies and describes speech sounds. It deals with the sounds produced with the breath by all human beings as part of their language. The great majority of speech sounds in any language are produced with air expelled from the lungs (Kreidler, 1997: 14). When we produce a stream of speech, lips, tongue, vocal cords and velum are in constant motion. However, we perceive that stream of speech as a sequence of phones (ibid.: 27). According to Roach (1999: 36), in speaking, we produce a continuous stream of sounds that

we divide into small pieces or segments. They are called phonemes. They are an abstract set of units which represent the basis of our speech (ibid. : 38). The variants of these phonemes are known as allophones (Ladefoged, 2006: 46). The branch of linguistics which studies sound systems in a language is called phonology. It is “concerned with the range and function of sounds” in a specific language (Crystal, 1992: 261).

Catford (1988: 187) explains that the two disciplines of phonetics and phonology are dependent on each other; phonetics depends on phonology in order to indicate areas of linguistic importance and relevance. Similarly, phonology depends on phonetics heavily because phonetics shows the insights which enable one to find out what sound features are utilized.

Speech and Language: The spoken language has many characteristics which differentiate it from the written language. It is also prior to or more basic than the written language. According to O' Connor (1980: 1), “Writing consists of marks on paper which make no noise and are taken in by the eye, whilst speaking is organized sound, taken in by the ear”. Palmer (1976: 9) presents the following differences:

1. The human race has speech long before it has writing, and there are still many languages which have no written form such as *Piraha* because all native speakers are illiterate.
2. The child starts learning how to speak before learning how to write.
3. The role of speech is greater than the role of writing in our lives, that is, people spend more time speaking than writing or reading.
4. To a large extent, written language can be converted into speech without loss, but the converse is not true; if someone tries to write down what has been said, this will result in a great deal of loss.

Speech occurs between two parties in which the speaker has a specific addressee (or addressees), so speech is time-bound, dynamic, and transient. In writing, however, the writer is distant from the reader and he may not even know his reader that is why writing is space-bound, static, and permanent (Crystal, 2006: 149).

In speech, people make use of paralanguage—tones of voice, pauses, and varying stress in addition to the use of language (Lyons, 1977: 60). What people say is accompanied by facial expressions, or gestures, as part of the message they want to deliver. In written communication, however, the text takes its particular shape by its arrangement on a page, with punctuation marks and perhaps some pictures, charts, diagrams and so on (Widdowson, 2007: 8).

Speech and language are not the same because voice has characteristics that can carry extra messages. It is easy to identify one's voice (e.g. over the phone), sometimes even the speaker's mood – nervousness, fatigue, anger, impatience. In speech, there is little that corresponds to the written form, apart from the occasional phonological features. Rising intonation and increasing loudness can be represented by using question marks and exclamation marks respectively. In the case of lowering tempo, loudness, and pitch, underlining and parentheses can be used. It is vital to know now how one can represent speech in writing.

Transcription: Transcription, as stated by Hartmann and Stork (1972: 239), is “the reduction of speech to a written form”. Phonetic transcription is “concerned with how the sounds used in spoken language are represented in written form” (Heselwood, 2013: 1). Sounds and writing

are completely different, but over the ages people have found ways to represent sounds using written symbols of one kind or another; ways that have been more or less successful for their purposes (ibid.). In phonemic transcription, we want to “record all and only the variation between sounds that cause a difference in meaning” (Ladefoged: 2006: 34). Here, “every speech sound must be identified as one of the phonemes and written with the appropriate symbol”. English has forty four phonemes of consonants and vowels as Roach (1999: 39) clarifies. The accurate transcription in phonetic detail with much more information than the phonemic transcription is what is known as phonetic transcription (ibid.: 42). Now, it is a universal practice to enclose phonetic transcriptions, denoting general phonetic models, in square brackets [] and phonemic or phonological transcriptions in slant brackets / / (Heselwood, 2013: 141). Phonetic symbols are usually accompanied by “diacritics, signs which are printed above or below a phonetic symbol or with which the symbol is superscripted, and which specify particular features of pronunciation”. For instance, in the transcription [k^hæt], which represents the pronunciation of the English word cat, [k^h] represents a [k] which is accompanied by aspiration, a brief [h]-like sound occurring between the [k] proper and the following [h] (Gussenhoven and Jacobs, 2011: 16).

According to Ochs (1979) and Bucholtz (2000), cited in Johnstone (2008: 23), there are many ways to transcribe speech, but there is no single generally accepted way to represent speech on page. In some endeavors of transcription, which involve discourse analysis, standardized transcription systems are used. Newcomers to discourse analysis have to realize that any way of representing speech in writing is intrinsically selective, and that different selections shed light on different aspects of what speech is like. So, a transcript is by necessity “a partial representation of talk, and transcribers’ decisions about what to include and what to omit have practical and theoretical consequences”. There is no transcription system that is ideal for all purposes because highly detailed transcripts are often hard to read; while easy-to-read transcripts include less specific information. The International Phonetic Association Alphabet IPA is considered to be the best-known set of symbols (Roach, 1999: 39).

Ontogeny Phylogeny Model

Ontogeny Phylogeny Model (OPM) deals with the acquisition of the second language, and it is proposed by Major (2001). This model is more of performance than of competence. Ontogeny, in traditional biological terms, means “the life cycle of a single organism” while phylogeny means “the evolutionary development of groups of organisms, such as the origin and development of species”. In terms of language, ontogeny refers to the life cycle of individual’s language; whereas phylogeny deals with the whole languages and language types life cycle, and it includes phenomena like language contact, language loss, historical change, and dialect variation (Major, 2001: 80-81). According to Yavas (2011: 213), OPM refers to the following idea: In the earlier stages of L2 acquisition, L1 interference is dominant; the role of universals is minimal. Gradually, the influence of L2 and universals increase, and the role of L1 decreases. In later stages of acquisition, the influence of L2 rises, with a decline of the role of L1 and universals.

The main components of this model are L1, L2, and universals. OPM shows how the second language can be acquired under the effects of these components. OPM works hand in hand with the concept of interlanguage. Major’s model is about these three components (L1, L2, and universals). The idea of analysis here is based on that of Major’s model but the components and the way of analysis are different. The main component is L2 as the players speak English as a second language. The analysis is done in terms of BBC accent. This is to know if the

players' pronunciation is wrong or just awkward as well as to detect the differences between females and males' pronunciation.

BBC Allophonic Rules: This list of allophonic rules of English, based on Ladefoged's *A Course in Phonetics*, makes clear how to write a consistent narrow transcription. These allophones are as follows:

Aspiration [p^h][t^h][k^h]: Aspiration refers to a strong explosion of breath. When these segments [p] [t] [k] (voiceless, fortis, and plosives) come in initial position followed by a vowel (pure, diphthong, and triphthong); they are pronounced as aspirated allophones.

e.g. *put* [p^hʊt], *take* [t^heɪk], *key* [k^hi:]

Glottalisation [ʔp] [ʔt] [ʔk]: When these segments [p] [t] [k] (voiceless, fortis, and plosives) come in medial or final position preceded by a vowel (pure, diphthong, and triphthong), they are pronounced as glottalised allophones.

e.g. *pepsi* [p^heʔpsɪ], *sport* [sp^hɔ:ʔt], *actor* [ˈæʔktə]

Devoicing: When the segments [p] [t] [k] (voiceless, fortis, and plosives) come in initial position followed by the voiced segments [l, r, w, j], these voiced segments are pronounced as devoiced allophones [l̥, r̥, w̥, j̥].

e.g. *please* [pli:z], *twice* [twɪs], *try* [tɹaɪ], *tube* [tjʊb]

Shortening Long Vowels and Diphthongs: Fortis, fricatives and stops shorten the long vowels, short vowels except short [ə], and diphthongs that precede them. So, when these voiceless, fortis, fricative, stop segments [s, θ, ʃ, f, p, t, k] come in final position preceded by long vowels, diphthongs, and triphthongs, the result is shortening them using this symbol [̟].

e.g. *house* [h'aʊs̟], *twice* [twɪs̟], *knife* [n'aɪf̟], *great* [gr'eɪt̟]

Segment [l] has four allophones: a. Clear (light) [l] is pronounced when the segment [l] comes in initial position followed by a vowel, or surrounded by vowels.

e.g. *love* [l'ʌv], *Helen* [h'elən]

b. Devoiced [l̥] (see point 3).

c. Dark [ɫ] is pronounced when the segment [l] comes in final position, or it precedes a consonant.

e.g. *oil* [ɔɪɫ], *help* [h'eɪɫ]

d. Syllabic [l̩] is pronounced when the words in orthography (written form) end with -el, -al, or -le.

e.g. *little* [l'ɪt̩l̩], *bottle* [b'ɒt̩l̩]

Nasal [ŋ] becomes syllabic [ŋ̩] at the end of an utterance following immediately an obstruent (stops [p, b, t, d, k, g] + fricatives [f, v, θ, ð, s, z, ʃ, ʒ, x, h]).

e.g. *button* [b'ʌt̩ŋ̩], *garden* [g'ɑdn̩], *listen* [l'ɪsn̩], *reason* [r'i:zn̩]

Note: [n] does not become syllabic after [m, n, tʃ].

e.g. *question* [kw'estʃən], *salmon* [s'æmən]

Linking Allophones: A linking allophone refers to a segment between two utterances. BBC has three of them:

a. Linking [r] is pronounced when there are two utterances; the first one ends with any vowel except [ɪ] and [ʊ]; the second one starts with a vowel.

e.g. *for example* [fə'ɪʔk'æmpəl], *four hours* [f'ɔ:'a'ʊəz], *for eggs* [fə'egz]

b. Linking [w] is pronounced when there are two utterances; the first one ends with the short [ʊ] or long vowel [u:] (neutralized[u]), and the second one starts with a vowel.

e.g. *you are* [ju^w'ɑ:]

c. Linking [j] is pronounced when there are two utterances; the first one ends with the vowels [ɪ] and [i:], and the second one starts with a vowel.

e.g. *the apple* [ðɪ^j'æʔpəl]

Phonological Analysis and Discussion

Out of the whole long speeches, only the relevant material will be transcribed for sake of brevity and space. One speech for males and one for females are chosen for the 2014 games, as being the newest in date as far as this study is concerned. The texts are first transcribed as perceived by the researcher and then in terms of BBC accent. Two more points should be clarified. The transcription notation used in writing down the texts are the following: contributions from the crowd are in square brackets; ellipses and pauses are indicated with dots; colons represent drawn-out sounds, laughter is transcribed with huh, hah, hih; sounds like ah, off, uh show regret, sadness, disappointment, and any additional information is represented between round brackets. The (*) is used to refer to utterances that cannot be understood. Second, the nationalities of the players are as follows: Lina is Chinese, Nadal is Spanish, Wawrika is Swiss and Cibulkova is Slovak. This has some implications and reflections in their speech.

Text 1: Australian Open 2014 (Males' Final Speech)

Mr. Thomas OH

"I do believe both of you have demonstrated"

/ 'aɪ du: 'bɪli:v 'bɒʊθ ɒv ju hæv 'demənstreɪtɪd/

BBC: ['aɪ du: bɪl' i:v bəʊθ əv ju hæv d' emənstreɪtɪd]

"this year tournament"

/dɪz jɪr 'tɔ:rnəmənt/

BBC: [ðɪzɪə t^h' ʊənəmənt]

"at the tennis Australia"

/ətðə'tenɪs 'ɔ:zeɪliə/

BBC: [əʔtðət^henɪs' ɒstreɪliə]

"harder work to make this year event successful"

/h'ɑ:r,dər wɜ:r tu 'meɪk tɪs jɪr 'ɪvent 'səksesfl/

BBC: [h'ɑ:də w'z:ʔkt^hə m' eɪʔk θɪzɪə' ɪvent səʔks' esfl]

"here tonight watching at home"
 /hɪr tə'na:t 'wɒtʃɪŋ æt 'həʊm/
 BBC: [hɪətʰənɑɪʔt wɒtʃɪŋ əʔt hə'ʊm]
 "their sportsmanship and professionalism"
 /ðɪə 'spɔ:rtsmənʃɪp ənd prə'feʃnɪzəm/
 BBC: [ð'eə sp'ɔ:ʔtsmənʃɪʔp ən pʃəfeʃnɪzəm]

Rafael Nadal

"good evening everybody"
 /'gʊd'evnɪŋ ,evrɪ'bɑ:di /
 BBC: [g'ʊd i:vniŋ evrɪbɑdi]
 "First thing that I want to say"
 /'fɜ:rst 'θɪŋ ðæt aɪ 'went tu 'seɪ/
 BBC: [f'ɜ:st θ'ɪŋ ðəʔt aɪ w'ɒnt tʰə s'eɪ]
 "you really deserve it"
 /ju rɪəli ,dɪ'zɜ:rfɪt/
 BBC: [ju r'ɪəli dɪz'ɜ:v ɪʔt]
 "that was against me today"
 /ðæt wəz ə'genst mi tə'deɪ/
 BBC: [ðə ʔt wəz əg'enst mi tʰəd'eɪ]
 "Second thing I want"
 /,se'kɒnd θɪŋ aɪ 'wentʊ/
 BBC: [s'eʔkənd θ'ɪŋ aɪ w'ɒnt]
 "thanks for the organization"
 /θæŋks fɔ:r ðə 'ɔ:rgnaɪzeɪʃn/
 BBC: [θ'æŋks fə ði'j'ɔ:gnaɪzeɪʃn]
 "these great event, seriously"
 /ði:s 'greɪt i'vent 'sɪəriəzli/
 BBC: [ð'i:z gr'eɪʔt'ɪvent sɪrɪəsli]
 "since I start playing tennis . . . for supporting tennis these way"
 /sɪnz aɪ 'stɑ:rt 'pleɪɪn'tenɪs . . . fɔ:r sə'pɔ:rtɪŋ 'tenɪsði:zweɪ/
 BBC: [s'ɪns 'aɪ st'ɑ:ʔt pl'eɪɪŋ tʰ'enɪs . . . fə səʔp'ɔ:ʔtɪŋ tʰ'enɪsð'i:zw'eɪ]
 "I couldn't be here, this year I'm back, I tried hard"
 /aɪ kɒ'ldnt bi hɪr ðɪz jɪr aɪm 'bæk aɪ 'traɪd h'ɑ:rd/
 BBC: [aɪ kʰ'ʊdnt bi h'ɪə ðɪz'ɪə' a'ɪm b'æʔk 'aɪ tʃ'aɪd h'ɑ:d]
 "last year was very tough moment when I didn't"
 /'lɑ:zt jɪr wəz veri tʌf 'mɒmənt wen aɪ dɪdnt/
 BBC: [l'ɑ:st j'ɪə wəz v'eri tʰ'ʌf mə'ʊmənt w'en 'aɪ dɪdnt]
 "Thank you very much for the support"
 /'θæŋk ju'veri'mʌtʃfɔ:r ðə sə'pɔ:r/
 BBC: [θ'æŋk juve'ri m'ʌʔtʃfə ðə səʔp'ɔ:ʔt]
 "and see you in twelve months"
 /ənt'si: ju ɪn 'twelf'mʌnθs/
 BBC: [ən s'i: ju^w ɪn t'wɛlve m'ʌnθs]

Stanislas Wawrinka

"hello everybody"
 /heləʊ ,evrɪ'bɒdi/
 BBC: [h'eləʊ^w evrɪbɑdi]

"I'm really sorry for you"

/aɪm riəli sɒri fɔːr ju/

BBC: [ˈaɪm rɪˈɪli ˈsɒri fə ju]

"You're really great guy, a good friend, and amazing champion"

/jʊr riəli ˈɡreɪt ˈɡaɪ ə ˈɡʊd ˈfren ən ə ˈmeɪzɪŋ ˈtʃæmpiən/

BBC: [jɪː rɪˈɪli ɡrɪˈeɪt ɡaɪ ə ɡʊd frɪˈend ən əmˈeɪzɪŋ tʃˈæmpiən]

"to play against you, and to play to play with you"

/tuˈpleɪə ˈɡenstju ən tuˈpleɪtu pleɪwɪzju /

BBC: [tʰə pl̩ˈeɪə ɡenstjuː n tʰə pl̩ˈeɪt ə pl̩ˈeɪwɪdʒu]

"I'm enjoying very much to play here in front of you"

/aɪmɪn ˈdʒɔɪŋ veri mʌtʃtuˈpleɪ hɪr ɪn frʌnt ɒf ju /

BBC: [ˈaɪm ɪndʒɔɪŋ vˈeri mˈʌtʃtʰəpl̩ˈeɪ hɪˈɪə ɪn frˈʌnt əv ju]

"I was ah crying a lot after the match"

/aɪ wəz əh ˈkraɪŋ ə ˈlɒt ˈɑːftər ðə ˈmætʃ/

BBC: [ˈaɪ wəz əh kɹaɪŋ ə lˈɒt ˈɑːftə ðə mˈæʃtʃ]

"I still don't know if I'm dreaming or not"

/aɪ stɪl dəʊn nəʊ ɪf aɪm ˈdriːmɪŋ ɔːr nɒt/

BBC: [ˈaɪ stɪl dəʊnt nˈəʊ ɪf ˈaɪm drɪːmɪŋ ɔː nɒt]

"I think Rafa told you everything"

/aɪ ˈθɪŋk ræfæ ˈtəʊl ju ˈevriθɪŋ/

BBC: [ˈaɪ θɪŋk rˈæfæ təˈɔld juː ˈevriθɪŋ]

"missing few people ah fitness trainer *Pair he is not he is not here with me"

/ˈmɪsɪŋ fjuː ˈpiːpl ˈfɪtnəs treɪnər per hi z nɒt hi z nɒθɪr ˈwɪz miː/

BBC: [mˈɪsɪŋ fjɪːuːpʰiːzpl̩ fɪˈtɪnəs tʃeɪnə pʰeə hi z nˈɒt hi z nɒtθɪr ˈwɪz mɪː]

"beautiful wife and daughter"

/ˈbjʊːtɪfl ˈwaɪf ən ˈdɔːtər/

BBC: [bjɪːuːtɪfl wˈaɪf n dˈɔːtə]

"every match I played amazing support"

/ˈevri ˈmætʃ aɪ ˈpleɪd ə ˈmeɪzɪŋ seˈpɔːrt/

BBC: [ˈevri mˈæʃtʃ aɪ pl̩ˈeɪd əmˈeɪzɪŋ səʒpˈɔːt]

"this two weeks actually hhh was a: was always a big support"

/dɪs tuː ˈwiːks ˈækʃəli wəz wəz ˈɔːlweɪz ə bɪɡ seˈpɔːrt/

BBC: [ðɪs tʰuː wɪːks ˈæʃktʃuəli wəz wəz ɔːlweɪz ə bɪɡ səʒpˈɔːt]

Text 2: Australian Open 2014 (Females' Final Speech)

Dominika Cibulkova

"I don't really know where to start"

/aɪ doʊn riəli ˈnəʊ wer tuˈstɑːrt/

BBC: [ˈaɪ dəʊnt rɪˈɪli nəˈʊ wɪˈeə tʰə stˈɑːt]

"this was just fantastic two weeks of my life, and I think I gonna cry"

/tɪs wəz ˈdʒʌst ˈfæntəstɪk tuː ˈwiːks ɒf maɪ ˈlaɪf ən aɪ θɪŋk aɪ ɡənə ˈkraɪ/

BBC: [ðɪs wəz dʒˈʌst fˈæntəstɪk tʰuː wɪːks əv mˈaɪ lˈaɪf ən ˈaɪ θɪŋk ˈaɪ ɡənə kɹaɪ]

"Thank you very much for supporting me"

/ˈθæŋk ju ˈveri mʌtʃfɔːr səˈpɔːrtɪŋ mi/

BBC: [θˈæŋk ju vˈeri mˈʌtʃfə səʒpˈɔːrtɪŋ mi]

"my parents there watching from home"

/maɪ 'pɜːnts ðɜː 'wɒtʃɪŋ frɒm 'hʊm/

BBC: ['maɪ pʰeərənts ð'ə w'ɒtʃɪŋ frɒm hə'ʊm]

"I would like to congratulate to Li Na; she had a great tournament, and and she deserve to be here as as a winner"

/aɪ wəd 'laɪk tu ,kən'grætʃələɪt tu li:næ ʃɪ hæd ə 'greɪt'tɔːnəmənt ən ənd ʃɪ ,dɪ'zɜːrv tu bi hɪr əz əz ə 'wɪnər/

BBC: ['aɪ wəd l' aɪk tʰə kʰəŋgr'æʃtʃələɪt tʰə l'i:næ ʃɪ hæd ə gr'eɪt tʰ'ʊənəmənt ən n ʃɪ dɪz'ɜːv tʰə bi h'ɪə' əz əz ə w'mə]

"for making"

/fɔːr 'meɪkɪŋ/

BBC: [fə m'eɪkɪŋ]

"thanks to all the sponsors"

/'θæŋks tu ɔːl ðə 'spɒnzəz/

BBC: [θ'æŋks tʰu'w'ɔːl ðə sp'ɒnsəz]

"it takes so much energy so you know that's I think everything for me"

/ɪt 'teɪks səʊ mʌtʃ 'enədʒɪ səʊ ju nəʊ tæts aɪ θɪŋk 'evrɪθɪŋfɔːr mi/

BBC: [ɪt tʰeɪks sə'ʊ m'ʌtʃ 'enədʒɪ sə'ʊ ju nə'ʊ ð'æʃt ɪz 'aɪ θ'ɪŋk 'evrɪθɪŋfə mi]

Li Na

"so start now"

/səʊ 'stɑːrt na/

BBC: [sə'ʊ st'ɑːrt n'au]

"congratulation for Dominik have very good tournament here"

/'kən'grætʃələɪʃn fɔːr dɒmɪnɪk hæv vɛrɪ'gʊd'tɔːnəmənt hɪr/

BBC: [kʰəŋgr'æʃtʃələɪʃn fə d'ɒmɪnɪ:k hæv v'erɪg'ʊd tʰ'ʊənəmənt h'ɪə]

"Max agent make me rich"

/mæks 'eɪʒənt 'meɪk mi 'rɪtʃ/

BBC: [m'æʃks 'eɪʒənt m'eɪk mi r'ɪtʃ]

"last year finals; we we couldn't count that so yeah, it's not your fault, it's my fault, so so you're doing a very good job"

/'lɑːs jɪr 'faɪnlz wi wi 'kʊdnkaʊnt dæ səʊ jeə ɪts næ jɔːr 'fɔːr ɪts maɪ 'fɔːr səʊ səʊ jɒ 'duːm ə vɛrɪ'gʊd 'dʒɒb/

BBC: [l'ɑːst j'ɪə faɪ'nɪlz wi wi kʰ'ʊdnkʰaʊnt ð'æʃt sə'ʊ jeə 'ɪts nɒʃt jə f'ɒlt ɪts m'ar fɒlt səʊ səʊ jɒ: duːm ə vɛrɪ'gʊd dʒɒb]

"always believe me I can do well especially in this winter training"

/'ɔːweɪz ,bɪl'iːv mi aɪ kən du wel ɪs'peʃlɪn ɪn θɪs 'wɪntər 'treɪnɪŋ/

BBC: ['ɔːtweɪz bɪl'iːv mɪ'ar kʰən də w'eɪt 'ɪspeʃlɪ m ðɪs w'ɪntə tʃ'eɪnɪŋ]

"I think we are working so hard, and finally I get it"

/aɪ 'θɪŋki ŋ wɜːkɪŋ səʊ 'hɑːrd ən 'faɪnəli aɪ'gæt ɪt/

BBC: ['aɪ θ'ɪŋk wɪ'ə w'ɜːkɪŋ sə'ʊ h'ɑːd ən f'aməli'ar g'eɪt 'ɪt]

"traveling with me"

/'trævlɪŋ wɪð mi/

BBC: [tʃ'ævlɪŋ wɪð mi]

"and also you're so lucky found me"

/ən'ɔːlsəʊ jɔːr 'səʊ 'lʌki 'faʊnd mi/

BBC: [ən'ɔːlsəʊ j'ɔː sə'ʊ l'ʌki fa'ʊnd mi]

"but last thing"

/bət 'lɑːst θɪŋ/

BBC: [bəʔt l'ɑ:st θɪŋ]

"thanks for the crowd come to supporting us"

/'θæŋks fɔ:r ðə 'kraʊd 'kʌm tu sə'pɔ:rtɪŋ əs/

BBC: [θ'æŋks fə ðə kɹ'ʌʊdkʰ'ʌm tʰə səʔp'ɔ:ʔtɪŋ əs]

The above transcriptions show that the non-native tennis players speak English with a foreign accent because of the phonological mismatches between their mother tongue and English. Phonological mismatches, according to Yavas (2011: 185), are difficult to avoid in comparison with other fields like syntax because in syntax, one can avoid certain construction (e.g. if the non-native speaker does not know the difference between the simple and past perfect, s/he can get by with using only the simple past. In phonology, it is difficult to avoid pronouncing certain segments. For example, if one has a problem with the interdental fricatives of English; s/he cannot simply avoid utterances that contain /θ/ and /ð/ specially /ð/ which is frequently used in the grammatical morphemes like the definite article the [ðə], the case forms of personal pronouns (e.g. them [ðem]), the demonstrative pronouns (e.g. this [ðɪs], that [ðæt], etc), and some common adverbs (e.g. then [ðen], thus [ðʌs]), so /ð/ by itself can create a critical situation.

Interlanguage as well as transfer are considered to be the main reasons that creates those phonological mismatches. The phonological mismatches are reviewed stating the reason behind them depending on Yavas (2011: 183-ff):

1. One of the problems that many non-native speakers faces is the pronunciation of /θ/ and /ð/, these interdental fricatives, as considered to be absent in many of world's languages are usually replaced by /s, z/ or /t, d/ respectively.

Examples:

Nadal has pronounced "this trophy" as /ðɪs 'træfi/.

OH has pronounced "this year" as /dɪz jɪr/.

Wawrinka has pronounced "with you" as /wɪz ju/, and "this two weeks" as /dis tu: 'wi:ks/.

Cibulkova has pronounced "this was" as /tɪs wəz/, and "I think everything for me" as /aɪ tɪŋk 'evrɪtɪŋfɔ:r mi/ .

Li Na has pronounced "this winter" as /tɪs 'wɪntər/.

2. The differences of lateral liquids across languages such as clear [l] and dark [ɫ] do not create a breakdown of communication as it does not change meaning.

Example:

Nadal has pronounced "Well" as /wel/ not as [wɛɫ].

3. Spanish speakers have a problem pronouncing the following English phonemes /v, θ, ð, z, ʃ, ʒ, dʒ, ŋ/ because they do not exist in the Spanish inventory that is why Spanish speakers try to substitute them by the closest sounds.

Examples:

Nadal has pronounced "receive" as /,rɪs'i:f/ not as [rɪsi:v], "deserve" as /,dɪz'ɜ:rf/ not as [dɪz'ɜ:v], "twelve" as /'twelf/ not as [t'wɛlve], and "having" as /hævɪn/ not as [hævɪŋ].

4. /ð/ is a separate phoneme in English; whereas in Spanish /ð/ and /d/ are allophones of the same phoneme.

Example:

Nadal has pronounced "this" either as /dis/ or /ðis/.

5. Spanish allows only /s, n, r, l/ (and may be /d/) to occur in final position; that is why there are many cases of final consonant elision.

Examples:

Nadal has pronounced "your support" as /jɔ:r sɒp'ɔ:r/, and "without" as /wɪðʊʊ/; he elides the final consonant /t/.

6. In Spanish, the alveolar lateral /l/ is always realized as "clear [l]" (i.e. non-velarized), and Spanish has two r-sounds: trill [r] and flap [ɾ]. The most important difference between Spanish and English is that Spanish has only five vowels which is a small number in comparison with English that has twenty only in terms of pure vowels.

Examples:

Nadal has pronounced "I tried hard" as /aɪ 'traɪd h'ɑ:rd/ not as ['aɪ tɹɑɪd h'ɑ:d].

7. Voiceless stops are always unaspirated in Spanish; whereas in English, they are aspirated [p^h], [t^h], and [k^h] when they come at the beginning of a word followed by a vowel.

Examples:

Nadal has pronounced "tournament" as /t'ɔ:rnəmən/ not as [t^hʊənəmənt], and "I couldn't" as /aɪ kɒ'ldnt/ not as ['aɪ k^hʊdnt].

8. One of the problems, that Japanese speakers face, is the pronunciation of English clusters. It is known that the English words can have three onsets and three codas (as clusters); whereas Japanese has no clusters.

Examples:

OH has pronounced "Australia" as /'ɔ:zeɪ,liə/ not as ['ɒstreɪliə].

Li Na has pronounced "Fault" as /'fɔ:lt/ not as [f'ɒlt].

In order to detect the phonological differences in pronunciation between females and males tennis players, many results of studies discussed by Major (2001: 76-77) are applied. These results include the following:

Males use more casual phonological forms than females, who are more likely to use prestige forms as in:

1. Males use [n] as the final segment instead of [ŋ] in words that end with the morpheme –ing; whereas females use [ŋ] (native as well as non-native speakers).

- Nadal has pronounced "having" as /hævɪn/, "evening" as /'evniŋ/, "thing" as /θɪŋ/, and "playing" as /pleɪn/.

- OH has pronounced "watching" as /'wɒtʃɪŋ/.

- Wawrinka has pronounced "amazing" as /ə'meɪzɪŋ/, "enjoying" as /ɪn'dʒɔɪŋ/, "crying" as /'kraɪŋ/, "dreaming" as /dri:mɪŋ/, and "missing" as /'mɪsɪŋ/.

- Cibulkova has pronounced "supporting" as /sə'pɔ:rtɪŋ/, "watching" as /'wɒtʃɪŋ/, and "making" as /'meɪkɪn/.

- Li Na has pronounced "doing" as /'du:ɪn/, "working" as /'wɜ:kɪŋ/, "traveling" as /'træv, lɪŋ/, "thing" as /θɪŋ/, and "supporting" as /sə'pɔ:rtɪŋ/.

2. Females' pronunciation is more accurate than males' pronunciation.

- Nadal has pronounced "season" as /s'i:sn/.

- Cibulkova has pronounced "sponsors" as /'spɒnzərz/.

- Li Na has pronounced "agent" as /'eɪʒə/, "fault" as /'fɔ:lt/, and "found" as /fænd/.

3. Females display a higher usage of the /r/ postvocalic, which is a prestigious feature.

- Nadal has pronounced "year" as /jɪr/.

- OH has pronounced "harder" as /h'ɑ:r,dər/, and "year" as /jɪr/.

- Wawrinka has pronounced "here" as /hɪr/.

- Cibulkova has pronounced "where" as /wer/, "here" as /hɪr/, and "winner" as /'wɪnər/.

- Li Na has pronounced "here" as /hɪr/, and "winter" as /'wɪntər/.

Most of the participants (non-native speakers) fail to use the correct form in the utterances (whether it is weak or strong) since, in connected speech, it is proper to use the weak form for prepositions, pronouns, coordinators, definite and indefinite articles, and auxiliary verbs. Pronouncing utterances. According to Roach (2009: 89), a strong form sounds bizarre to native speakers who are accustomed to weak forms. So, speakers who do not use weak forms will have a difficulty in understanding speakers who use them. The following examples will clarify the idea:

- Nadal has pronounced "for", "of", "your", "and", "to" as /fɔ:r/, /ɒf/, /jɔ:r/, /ənt/, /tu/ not as [fə], [əv], [jə], [ən], [tʰə] respectively.

- OH has pronounced "of", "to", "at", "and" as /ɒv/, /tu/, /æt/, /ənd/ not as [əv],[tʰə], [əʔt], [ən] respectively.

- Wawrinka has pronounced "for", "to", "of" as /fɔ:r/, /tu/, /ɒf/ not as [fə], [tʰə], [əv] respectively.

- Cibulkova has pronounced "to", "of", "for", "from", "and" as /tu/, /ɒf/, /fɔ:r/, /frɒm/, /ænd/ not as [tʰə], [əv], [fə], [frəm], [ən] respectively.

- Li Na has pronounced "for", "your", "are", "to" as /fɔ:r/, /jɔ:r/, /ɑ:r/, /tu/ not as [fə], [jə], [ə], [tʰə] respectively.

CONCLUSIONS

Pronunciation mismatches are inevitable from players who are from different nationalities. English is a global language and those players have to learn it because they need to speak it in the different countries they go to play in. The formality of the setting (as there are kings, queens, and many celebrities who attend the game) makes the players exert more control over their speech segments. Today, much attention is given not only to the game, but also to the players and their speeches. Nevertheless, their pronunciation remains imperfect in terms of certain sounds as interdental fricatives, laterals as well as in terms of aspiration and clustering. No doubt there is a mismatch in intonation and stress.

Gender differences exist (e.g. the differences in the pitch of voice 'the rate of the vocal cords vibration'), but there are no real phonological differences in pronouncing certain speech segments like [ŋ] and [r], as well as the kind of phonological mismatches that are committed by both males and females. It is found that females' speech is more accurate and they try to use a more prestigious language.

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<https://youtu.be/QCAEg3YMAgY>

APPENDIX

Text 1: Australian Open 2014 (Males' Final Speech)

This text is about speeches that are said by the presenter, the sponsor, the President of Tennis Australia, and tennis players (Rafael Nadal and Stanislas Wawrinka) in Australian open (2014) males' final game. The participants are:

The presenter (Bruce McAvancy) = A

The sponsor = Mr. Thomas OH

The president of tennis Australia = Mr. Stephen Healy

The player (Rafael Nadal) = B

The player (Stanislas Wawrinka) = c

A: Ladies and gentlemen, tennis has a new Grand Slam champion, but tonight, (clapping) I think it's so true to say; there were two great champions on the court Rafael Nadal and Stan Wawrinka. (clapping) What a match and what a fortnight, we join tonight for the presentation by the president of tennis Australia Stephen Healy, from Kia motors corporation, the executive vice president and CEO Mr. Thomas OH. Pete Sampras is here tonight, twenty years after he won his first Australian open, (clapping) and may I say when Pete won his second Australian open in 1997, it was Australia day that day as well, Pete great to have you back.

The tournament director and chief executive tennis Australia Craig Tiley, and the tournament referee Wayne McKewen are also here tonight. Kia've been a wonderful sponsor of tennis Australia and the Australian open, and I would like to invite Mr. Thomas to say a few words.

Mr. Thomas OH: gentlemen, I do believe both of you have demonstrated all of the qualities of true champion throughout this year tournament (the crowd take time to clap). I also thank everyone at the tennis Australia the tournament organ step, and the volunteers for the harder work to make this year event successful. (Clapping)

And of course my heartfelt thanks go out to all of the passionate fans here tonight watching at home. (The crowd take little time to clap)

Once again, I am so proud of two finalists for their sportsmanship and professionalism. Thank you. (Clapping)

A: Mr. OH , thank you very much, it's pleasure now I invite the president of tennis Australia Mr. Stephen Healy; Stephen. (Clapping)

Mr. Stephen Healy: Good evening every one and happy Australia day and what eventful fortnight of tennis we've had. I'd like to thank our fantastic sponsors led by Kia, Jacob's Creek, ANZ, Rolex and all that commercial partners, we thank you for your support. These incredible facilities are the very best in the world, we thank the Victorian Government for their constant support, and they're doing us to give the fans and the players the very best experience.

Thank you to our tournament team led by (clapping) led by CEO tournament director Craig Tiley, our referee Wayne MaKewen, and all of four and a half thousand team that come together, and that so fantastic in the course of the week and at the fortnight and the year.

To the fans all around the world who've *tuden over two hundred countries and six hundred and forty three thousand two hundred ninety people of country thank you for your support. (Clapping)

And to the players to Rafa, your courage under adversity is absolutely inspiring, and you are fantastic role model, and ambassador for the sport. (Clapping)

And to Stan, your first Grand Slam title, we are delighted it is here at the Australian open; he will be number three in the world tomorrow, and he's the first player over twenty years to beat the number one and number two seed to win the title, congratulations. (Clapping)

A: Stephen touched on Rafa's courage tonight; what an incredible comeback Nadal has made to world tennis in the last twelve months, in the last year; he won two majors, he got back to the world number one, and they often say, you learn more about a champion when he is *fled on his back and defeat than he do in victory; we learn a lot more again tonight about you Rafa.

To present the trophies Pete Sampras and the checks Mr. Thomas.

Rafael Nadal

(Fabulous response from the crowd)

B: well ahh good evening everybody.

First thing that I want to say, and I need to says many thanks to Stan, you you really deserve it and all your team and very happy for you.

ahhh We have a great relationship bad luck that was against me today, but you really deserve it. So, many congratulations, and all the best for the rest. (Clapping)

a: Second thing I want to say many thanks for the organization, all the ball boys ahhh everybody who makes possible these great event, seriously, all the sponsors especially the main sponsor Kia that's my sponsor since I start playing tennis, so many thanks Kia for supporting tennis these way, thank you very much. (Clapping)

Craig, a: thank you very much for for everything a: probably a: you are best tournament director in the in the world, you make feel the players like like home, and ahhh just can say thank you very much from from all the players for make us feel unbelievable every year by year here.

Thank you very much. (Clapping)

My team ah that a: was for with me well you know last year, I couldn't be here, this year I'm back, I tried hard.

Thank you very much everybody who is there supporting me without them will be impossible be back where where I'm today.

So, thank you very much (Clapping)

And ahhh the really last thing to all the crowd have been just

a: very very emotional two weeks.

I'm you know sorry to finish this way. [we love you Rafa]

I tried very very hard. (clapping in an impressive way)

(Nadal become very emotional, and his eyes are filled with tears)

Ohhhhhh thank you

Well, last year was very tough moment when I didn't when I didn't had the chance to to be playing here.

This year was one of the more emotional tournaments in my career.

Thank you very much for the support have been more than ever;

I really enjoyed so much playing in this course.

So ahhh just thank you very much, and see you in twelve months.

Thank you

A: thank you Rafa (Clapping)

Well, Stephen said a moment ago Stan is first man since Sergi Bruguera in 1993 to beat world number one and number two, but he is also the first man ever to beat Novak and Rafa in a Grand Slam, he did it in a hard way, he is the world number three from tomorrow, but far more important even that, HE IS GRAND SLAM CHAMPION

Stan Wawrinka (Clapping)

C: hello everybody hah

First ahh Rafa a: I'm really sorry for you;

I hope your back is gonna be fine.

You're really great guy, a good friend, and amazing champion.

So, you did amazing comeback last year to comeback number one, and it's always a pleasure to play against you, and to play to play with you.

So, well done for for your comeback to be number one and again congratulate for for the team also, you always really nice with everybody, so good job. (Clapping)

I would like to say many thanks for for the sponsor Jacob's, Kia, ANZ for make that's even possible, it's for me the best Grand Slam ever, I'm I'm really happy to come back every year here.

I'm enjoying a: I'm enjoying very much to play here in front of you.

Last year, I'd crazy match, I lost it, I was ahh crying a lot after the match, but in one year a lot happen, and I right now, I still don't know if I'm dreaming or not, but we will see tomorrow morning. (Clapping)

I would like also to say thank you to to Craig a:;

I think Rafa told you everything, you are the best tournament director, and a: you make all the player really happy

We enjoy to come back here, we've we've everything we want, and ahhh it's again for me amazing Grand Slam to play.

(The crowd take time to clap)

Then, I would like to congratulate my team, and a: say thank you a lot. Magnus working since one year, and first semi-final we know for Grand Slam, we dream about that. *Sapes been since many years with me, also my manger *Lawerance , my brothers are here, many friends, ahhh missing few people ah fitness trainer *Pair he is not he is not here with me, my physio Stephan, and and a: especial hi to my beautiful wife and daughter;

I'm gonna comeback to in two days, so off I can't wait, it will be really nice. (Clapping)

And ahhh in last I would like to say

a: many thanks to all the people here, every match I played amazing support; it's it's great to help me a lot hold a tough tough battle this week this two weeks actually hhh was a: was always a big support.

So, thank you very much all, and

a: I see you in twelve months. (Clapping)

A: Ladies and gentlemen a champion stand another champion Rafa.

Text 2: Australian Open 2014 (Females' Final Speech)

This text is about speeches that are said by the presenter, the sponsor, the President of Tennis Australia, and tennis players (Dominika Cibulkova and Li Na) in Australian open (2014) females' final game. The participants are:

The presenter (Bruce McAvancy) = A

The sponsor = Mike Smith

The president of tennis Australia = Mr. Stephen Healy

The player (Dominika Cibulkova) = B

The player (Li Na) = c

A: Ladies and gentlemen, what a wonderful match we've just seen congratulations to Li Na and Dominika Cibulkova. (Clapping)

It's been an amazing fortnight really for women's tennis, we've seen some stunning upsets in the emergence of some bright youngsters, and we've seen two remarkably popular players play in tonight's final, and what a day for Slovakia and what a day for China. (The crowd take time to clap)

Joining us for tonight's presentation is president of tennis Australia Mr. Stephen Healy, the CEO of ANZ Mr. Mike Smith, and Miss Chris Evert who thirty years ago won her second Australian Open; it was Chris's one hundred and thirty second title that day and sixteenth of eighteen Grand Slam single she would win; what a player she was. (Clapping)

Also in the presentation tonight is the CEO of tennis Australia, and the tournament director Craig Tiley, and the tournament referee Wayne McKewen, ANZ have been a wonderful sponsors; I'd invite the CEO Mike Smith to say a few words. (Clapping)

Mr. Mike Smith: ANZ is delighted to announce that is going to sponsor the Australian Open for a further five years. (Clapping)

Australian Open has become also the Grand Slam of Asia specific, and is fantastic that tonight the champion is from China Li Na. (Clapping)

A: Mike thank you, and now also to say a few words the president of tennis Australia Mr. Stephen Healy, Stephen. (Clapping)

Mr. Stephen Healy: Good evening everyone, what a fantastic fortnight of tennis from our female competitiveness here at the Australian Open, I would like to thank our fabulous sponsors led by Kia, ANZ, Jacob's Creek, Rolex and all of that great commercial partners and a very special thank to the Victorian Government who have done a fantastic job assisting us with our facilities here all of the operations surrounding the tournament thank you also (clapping) thank you also to our tournament team led by CEO and tournament director Craig Tiley, our referee Wayne MaKewen. There are four thousand five hundred strong team who come together to operate the Australian Open, and see enthusiasm in the precision that they lend to this event that led the players to calls to call this the heavy Slam. (Hesitant clapping)

And thank you to all the spectators to the atmosphere you provided in here; it's been very very special tournament and to the players: Dominika congratulations you're the first Slovak player to make Grand Slam final; (clapping) four wins over top twenty players, and you've a align of fans by your fantastic attitude in scraping and fighting for every ball. And

Li Na twice a finalist here finally a winner holding up the Daphne Akhurst memorial cup; your first Australian open congratulations. (Clapping)

A: Steven thank you very much, I think Dominika has proven that you don't have to be big to be great in last two weeks; she's beaten two top five players on her way to this first Grand Slam final. I invite her to come up and receive the check from Mr. Mike Smith, the trophy from Miss Chris Evert, come in down. (Clapping)

B: Oh, put it (the microphone) little down okay hhhh

a: I'm I I don't I don't really know where to start; you know this is this was just fantastic two weeks of my life, and I think I gonna cry. (Clapping)

(Cibulkova's eyes are full of tears)

So, I will start with my team thank you very much for supporting me.

My especially my coach, my my boyfriend, my physio therapist, my friends in the box, and my fitness coach at home; he is not in here but and of course my parents there watching from home, so hello everybody in Slovakia hhhh. (Clapping)

You know this means a lot for our country, and I'm happy I can be the one who is you know a: em em here for Slovakia.

And and I would like to congratulate to Li Na; she had a great tournament, and and she deserve to be here as as a winner and a: (clapping) and I wanna also thanks to Chris for making my *presse in December in her academy set so great so I can also be here thank you.

Chris Evert: Thank you

B: hhh (Clapping)

And I would like to thanks to all the sponsors

You know this a: now for me is my favorite Grand Slam hhhh. (Clapping)

You know all the people who works for tournament it's a: it's just great, and a: and I know it makes so so it takes so much energy so you know that's I think everything for me; thank you very much guys. (Clapping)

A: congratulations Dominika, and now to our champion Li Na, I know that there are lucky numbers in China, but we have a saying here a third time lucky was a third time Li Na has been in the Australian Open final in the last four years; just days ago she saved a match point in the third round just a forth women to do that at the Australian Open, and now she adds the Australian Open to the championship at Roland Garros. So, she is a two time Grand Slam champion, has it been a more popular winner Li Na. (Clapping)

C: You know finally I can got him, get get her. Last last two times was very close. So anyway, so start now ahh.

First, congratulation for Dominik have very good tournament here; also for her team, so best wish for the future.

B: Thank you (Clapping)

C: a: ya, now have to thanks my team Max agent make me rich, thanks a lot hhhh [hhhh]. (Clapping)

ah ah a: my physio Alex when when we were working around like four years, I never got injured, of course last year finals; we we couldn't count that so yeah, it's not your fault, it's my fault, so so you're doing very good job hhhh. (The crowd keep laughing and clapping)

Thanks for Carlos (Coach) always believe me I can do well especially in this winter training; I think we are working so hard, and finally I get it. Thanks so much. (Clapping)

a: Okay, now, of course my husband, you em you em famous in China. (The crowd are clapping and laughing)

So, thanks for him give up everything just traveling with me to be my hitting partner, fix the drink, and fix the racket, so he do a lot job. (The crowd keep laughing)

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So, thanks a lot; you are nice guy. (The crowd are clapping and laughing). And – and also you're so lucky found me! (The crowd keep laughing and clapping)

Okay, a: now I would like to say thanks for all the sponsors to make fantastic tournament, you know, I have to say this my favorite Grand Slam.

So happy I can win title here.

So, I cannot wait and looking for comeback. (Clapping)

And also, I kne I know you guys think I'm talk too much but last thing hhh, (the crowd laughing) thanks for the crowd come to supporting us, so thank you so much. (Clapping)

A: And Li Na is a very hard ex-fellow ladies and gentlemen, a big round of applause for two finalists tonight Dominika Cibulkova, and our champion two thousand and fourteen the Australian Open champion Li Na of China. (Clapping)