

Symposium on Voice and Gender

Welcome!!!!



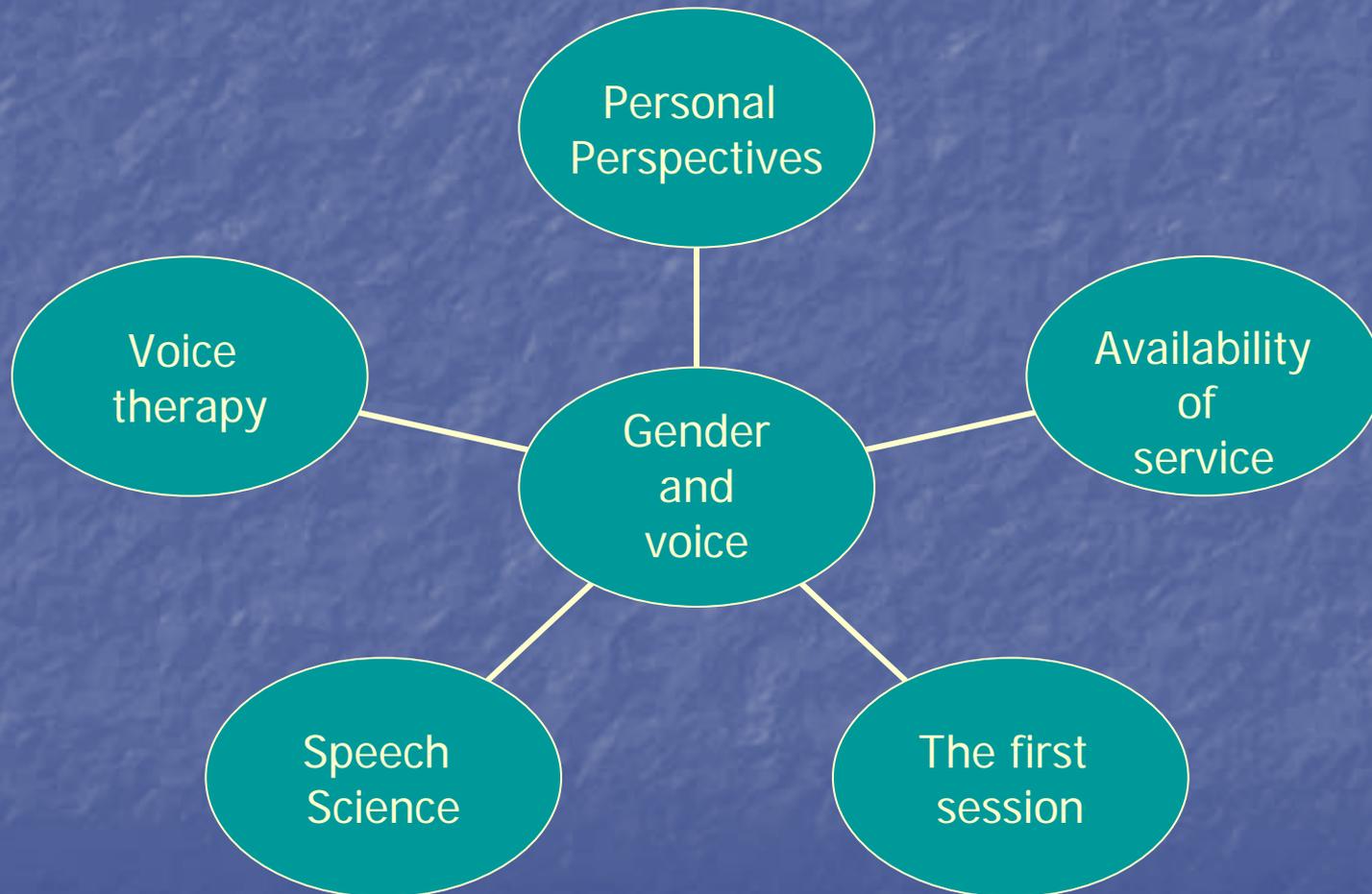




**“The voice is
the muscle of the soul”**

- Roy Hart

Looking at voice and gender



Reflections on voice and gender

matthew heinz, ph.d.

Reflections on voice and gender

Paula Koval

Speech and voice therapy for transsexual clients

Janice Waugh Bennett

M.H.Sc., S-LP (C), Reg. CASLPO

Speech-Language Pathologist

Pitch, resonance and gender

Valter Ciocca, Ph.D.

Professor and Director

School of Audiology and Speech Sciences

Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia

Trans-specific components of a voice assessment:

with Rachel Andrus
and Shelagh Davies

The first session ...

from the client's perspective

- What do you want to get out of a voice assessment?
- Advice for speech pathologists and speech trainers
- Advice for trans people

The first session...

from the clinician's perspective

- It's about the client
 - Not about data collection for medical management
 - Not about a voice disorder
 - It's about:
 - Evaluating current speech/voice
 - Clear communication
 - Beginning the process of change
 - Empowering the client; it's HER voice

The first session...

- Interview
- Acoustic analysis
- Clinical impressions
- Trial therapy
- Make a plan

A. Interview

- Perception of current voice
- Where she is currently in her transition
- Knowledge, experience with voice change

Current voice

- Client's perception about her current voice
- What would she like to change?
- Data collection:
 - '3 things' question: "What 3 things would you like to change about your voice?"
 - TVQ

Transsexual Voice Questionnaire

(Currently undergoing reliability and validity studies)

- SAMPLE QUESTIONS:

- I feel anxious when I know I have to use my voice.
- My voice makes me feel less feminine than I would like.
- When I speak the pitch of my voice does not vary enough.

About the transition ...

- How much of the time are you presenting as female? In what situations?
- Practice:
 - Where can you practice your voice?
 - Is now a good time, re. time, energy, life-stability, time in transition?
- Appropriate vs inappropriate questions

About voice change thus far ...

- How much do you know about speech and voice change?
- Show me what you've done yourself.
- How well did it work?

Assessment

- Assess in a variety of speech tasks:
 - Reading – Rainbow Passage
 - Picture description – Cookie Theft Picture
 - Conversation – 'What are your plans after you leave my office?'

- Also assess different voices:
 - Old male voice
 - Best female voice

Measure ...

- Average F_0 ; F_0 range in speaking
- Compare across different tasks
- Physiological pitch range, assess transition into falsetto

Speaking pitch in Hertz (fundamental frequency)

Average
cismale

100 - 140 Hz.

Gender
neutral

150 - 175 Hz.

Average
cisfemale

180 - 220 Hz.



Clinical evaluation of ...

- Voice quality, esp. breathiness
- Prosodic features:
 - Inflections: how much the pitch varies; how often it varies
 - Consonant onsets – hard or soft
- Resonance of voice

Trial Therapy

- See what happens when you change:
 - Average pitch
 - 165 Hz. (E3) 185 Hz.(F#3) 196 (G3)
 - Voice quality
 - Mild breathiness
 - Resonance
 - Higher/smaller
 - Inflections
 - More frequent movement; avoid 'flat – down at end'

By the end ...

- The clinician should know:
 - What speech/voice parameters are most important to start with
 - How stimuable the client is; how involved the change will be
- The client should know:
 - How her voice is now and what will be useful to change
- We both should know:
 - Where to start
 - What may be possible down the road

Thanks for listening!

