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Determining the Energies of Names

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Abstract

A method is presented for determining the energy of a name as the acoustic energy of the spoken name. The names, Madonna and Esther, as spoken by the author, differed by ~0.5 V of acoustic energy. This evidence may support the hypothesis of a difference in the energies of names.

Introduction

On June 16, 2004, the pop singer, Madonna, announced that she had taken the Hebrew name of Esther, in order to attach herself to "the energy of a different name" [1]. Nameologist, Maryanna Korwitts, has written that "...every name carries a frequency or vibration established by the characters that make up the name." and that "...the creative (or discordant) energy of a name is released every time that name is spoken, written or even thought." [2]. To the natural scientist, these statements about energy can have physical interpretations. Scientists ascribe different types of energies to different objects and actions of the natural world, such as mechanical energy, heat energy, electrical energy, atomic energy, etc. They have assigned to each of these types of energy an associated descriptive unit, such as Joules for mechanical energy, calories for heat energy, and electron volt for electrical energy. In addition, each type of descriptive unit can be converted into another type by the use of mathematical conversion factors. Do different names have different "energies" in the scientific sense of the word? Is it possible that the physical parameter, energy, has a role in the choice of names, and, if so, how could the energies of names be determined?

The physiological processes of thought, speech, hearing, writing, and vision, all involve complex brain and muscular activities. All of these processes are known, or believed, to have a biochemical basis, and associated energies that can be measured and described with physical parameters. The transmission of speech between humans through the medium of air begins with compressions of air by the lungs and vocal cords, propagation of these compressions through air in the form of waves, reception of the compressions by the human ear, conversion of the compressions into vibrations of the ear drum, and, finally, conversion of ear drum vibrations into the electrical and chemical energy of nerve impulses by the apparatus of the inner ear. If the human ear is replaced with an electronic reception device, such as a microphone and recording device, it is possible to measure the acoustic energy associated with speech, such as spoken names. This methodology also enables the comparison of the energies of names, at least in terms of their acoustic energies.

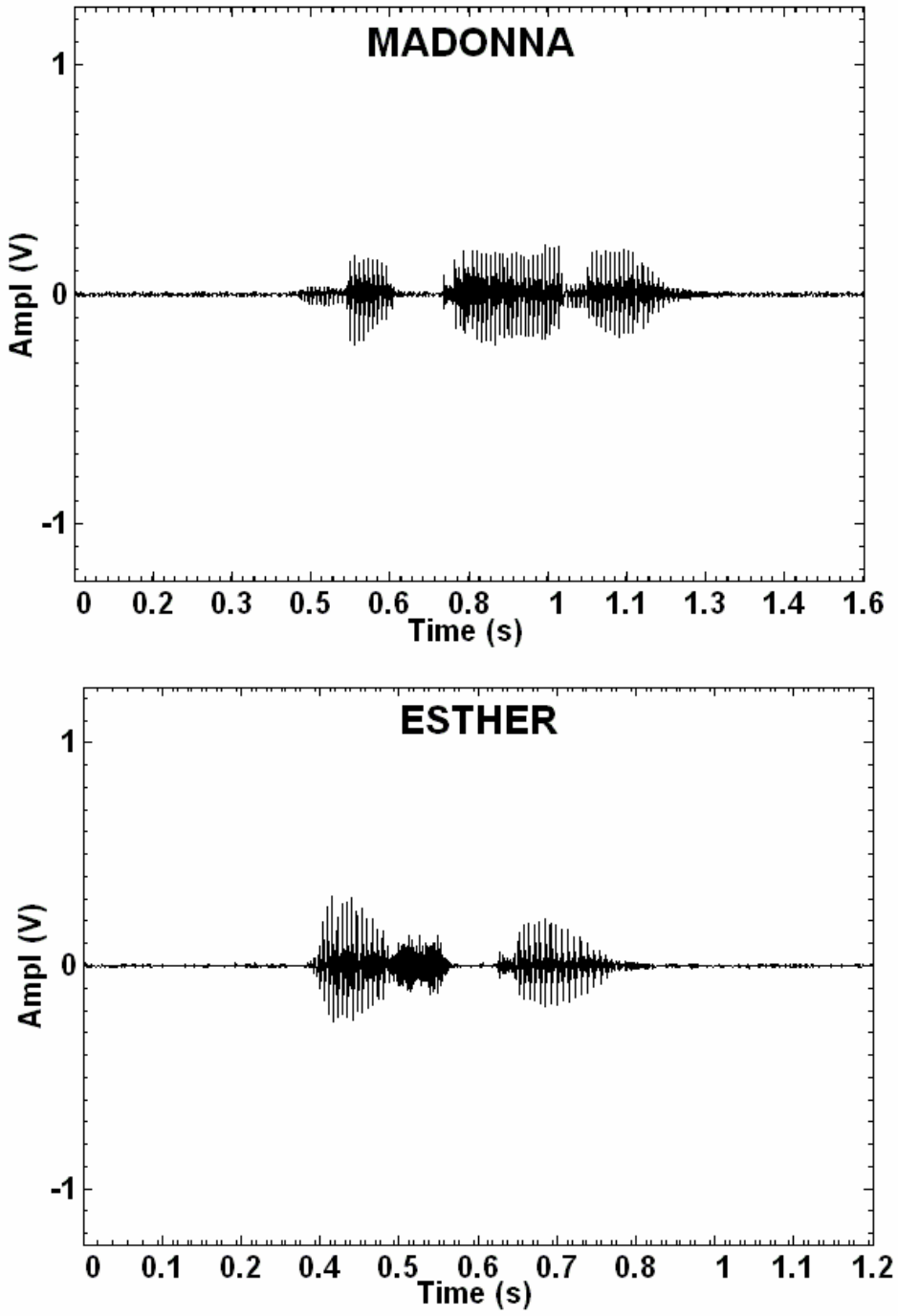
Methods

The names, Madonna and Esther, were spoken by the author and recorded electronically. An attempt was made to maintain the same volume of speech for each spoken name. The recording equipment included a General Electric microphone attached to a Gateway computer (Celeron ® 2.0 GHz CPU, 640 MB RAM) with a Microsoft Windows XP, Home Edition, Version 2002, operating system. Analyses of the recordings were done with Sound Ruler (MS Windows, Version 0.9.4.1) [3].

Results

Figure 1 shows the section oscillogram plots of amplitude (volts, V) versus time (seconds, s) for the names, Madonna and Esther, as spoken by the author [4]. Figure 2 is a plot of the energy values measured at eight points in Figure 1, four points before the peak amplitude and four points after the peak amplitude. The points selected were: 0 to 10%, 10 to 50%, 50 to 90%, and 90% to the peak amplitude (all before the peak amplitude), and peak to 90%, 90 to 50%, 50 to 10%, and 10 to 0% (all after the peak amplitude). Total energies of the Madonna and Esther section oscillograms are 0.030 V and 0.538 V, respectively, and the difference in energies is 0.508 V (Table 1).

Figure 1. Section oscillogram plots for the names, Madonna (top) and Esther (bottom), as spoken by the author.



Conclusions

Methodology exists for the determination of at least one facet of name energy, the acoustic energy of spoken names. A difference of 0.5 V of acoustic energy between the names, Madonna and Esther, as spoken by the author, supports the hypothesis of differences in the energies of names.

Figure 2. Energy values for the eight sections of both the Madonna and Esther oscillograms of Figure 1. Sections are divided according to their relationship to the peak amplitude {e.g., (50-90) indicates the energy between 50-90% of the peak amplitude, occurring before [begin (B)] or after [end, (E)] the peak}.

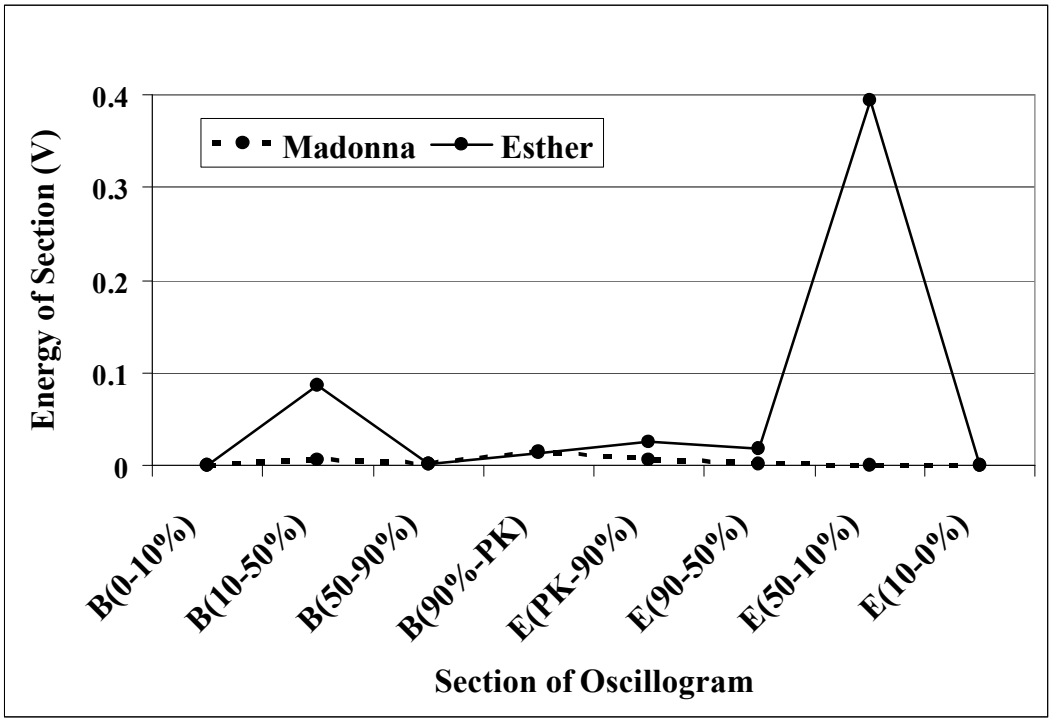


Table 1. Acoustic energies of two names and the difference in their energies.

Name	Total energy (V)
Esther	0.538
Madonna	0.030
Δ	0.508

Acknowledgements

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References

1. News Archives for June 16, 2004 ["Madonna Interview on 20/20 (ABC)"] on the official Madonna website (http://www.madonna.com/).
2. Korwitts, M., Namepower 101 (http://www.namepower101.com/miniprofiles.htm).
3. Gridi-Papp, M. Sound Ruler Acoustic Analysis, August 6, 2004, available on website http://soundruler.sourceforge.net/oldsite/index.html.
4. The acoustic files used in these experiments (33 and 44 kb .wav files) are available upon request.