

Abstract

Auditory Illusions (Auditiva Illusioner)

The following study was inspired by a viral 2018 video, with the audio containing an auditory illusion, commonly known as Yanny/Laurel. Individuals who listened to the video either heard a lower-pitched voice saying “Laurel,” or a higher-pitched voice saying “Yanny.” This type of illusion, where two distinct different sounds can be perceived, lacks previous terminology, and was therefore named *dual sound illusion*. Both the Yanny/Laurel illusion and an illusion solely created for this project were used to study the prompt whether age or biological gender influences what individuals hear in dual sound illusions.

The experiment was conducted in two major parts; the creation of a dual sound illusion and the collecting of data whose results will be used to answer the previously stated prompt regarding age and gender.

To create the illusion, the digital music program *Reason* was used to mix the Swedish two-syllable words “Riktigt” and “Bättre” together, as well as adjusting the pitches to higher respectively lower frequencies. All of the data collection was forced to be completed online due to an ongoing pandemic. Surveys consisting of questions of age, biological gender, and what the person hears, were distributed to classes, friends, and family. Social media platforms were also used to spread and advertise the study to reach out to as many people as possible.

In total, about five-hundred survey answers were received. They suggested that gender generally does not impact what a person hears. However age, to some extent, does have an effect, since the results showed that younger people heard more of the higher frequency sound than people of greater age.