Abstract
The low number of voiced obstruents in Spanish is analyzed in terms of markedness due to the imbalance between subglottal and mouth cavity air pressures and it is revealed how of two available strategies, Spanish prefers the reduction of the mouth constriction over the loss of sonority, a process that began in the second half of the XIV century. Our data also reveals that the preferred allophones are approximants instead of fricatives as traditional studies indicate. The fact that some other languages do not employ the same reduction strategy is explained in terms of the Corpo-Vocal Memory model.

Keywords
Voiced obstruents, approximants, markedness, Spanish.