ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to investigate whether or not there would be a difference in acoustic voice parameters between two groups of college-aged women as a function of voice type and personality.

Two groups of women, 20-30 years old, participated in the study: 10 women normal voice users, and 10 women who used low respiratory support (LRS) to produce voice. Voice recordings consisted of three trials of the vowel /ɑ /, and a paragraph reading and spontaneous speech task at a comfortable pitch and loudness level. Fundamental frequency (F_0), jitter, shimmer, noise-to harmonic ratio (NHR) and relative loudness level (RLL) were obtained from the vowel task. Speaking fundamental frequency (SFF) and relative loudness level (RLL-sp) were obtained from the connected speech tasks. Following the voice recordings, each participant was administered the *NEO Personality Inventory-Revised* (*NEO-PI-R*; Psychological Assessment Resources, Inc.).

No significant difference was found between F_0/SFF, jitter, shimmer, NHR, or RLL/RLL-sp between the control and LRS groups. The results of this study also found no significant differences in acoustic voice parameters between two groups of college-aged women as a function of personality.

While the findings of this present study are inconsistent with prior research, this is likely due to the sample's small size and narrow range as well as the unreliable nature of the acoustic measures used. Discussion includes recommendations for future studies that may yield more comparable results.