A Voice Over Time

Using PRAAT, a speech analysis software, to annotate the waveform of Vivien Leigh’s vocal performances, I was able to extract the data and compare her fundamental frequency (pitch) across the eleven most repeated words in her first, available, film *Look Up and Laugh* (dir. Dean, 1935) and her final film *Ship of Fools* (dir. Kramer, 1965), 30 years later.

**Graph Comparing the Average Pitch Levels for the Top 11 Words Leigh says in both Look Up and Laugh (1935) and Ship of Fools (1965)**

![Graph showing pitch levels](image)

*Fig. 1 Annotated waveform for Look Up and Laugh (1935)*

*Fig. 2 Annotated waveform for Ship of Fools (1965)*

Research Questions raised by this > 50% drop in pitch:

- How much this drop caused by the natural drop in a woman’s voice brought about by ageing?
- How much of it could have been caused by Leigh’s illness and lifestyle?
- How much might have been created for the specific characters?