Phonetic and Phonological Research in Vietnam and Cambodia

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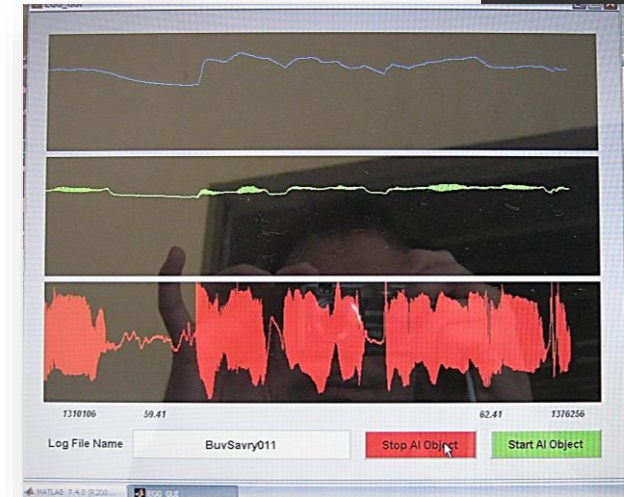
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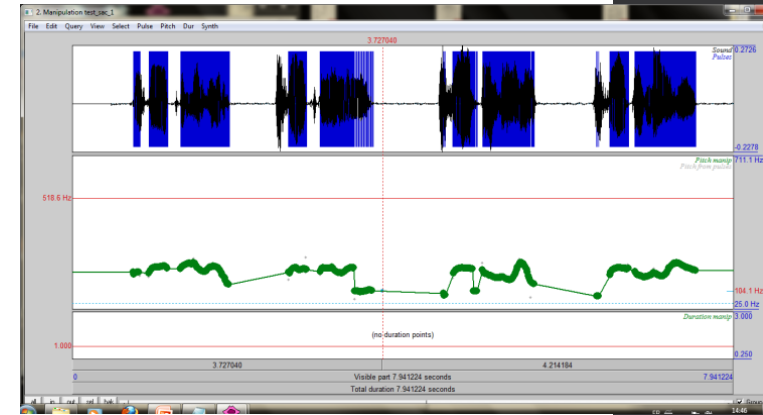# How is new technology transforming linguistic fieldwork in SEA?

Technological developments

- Availability of electricity

- High-quality portable recording equipment

- Widespread availability of computers

- Online media, internet
  - Corpora
  - Minority languages online
  - Skype, chat

New skills are needed

- Speech processing and acoustic analysis

- Programming and scripting to automate time-consuming data analysis
  - Praat
  - Presentation, Psyscope, DMDX
  - Matlab, Python

- Statistical analysis
  - R, SPSS, Stata

Collaboration and teamwork

- Why is collaboration necessary for foreign researchers?
  - Large-scale data collection in the field requires assistants
  - Corpus annotation requires coders
  - Native speaker input is useful, even for multilingual researchers

- Why is it good for local researchers?
  - Training of local students (= future professors)
  - Technology transfer

- Challenges
  - Networks, political issues, hierarchies
  - Unrealistic expectations about financial contribution from foreign partners
  - Limited language skills of some foreign researchers

Research issues that must/can/should be addressed

The usual suspects

- The questions are not necessarily new
  - Tonogenesis
  - Monosyllabization
  - Contact and change
  - …

- New approaches allow us to dig much deeper
  - Large-scale studies of phonetic variation
  - Sociophonetic studies of sound change
  - Perception studies

Example: Phonologization
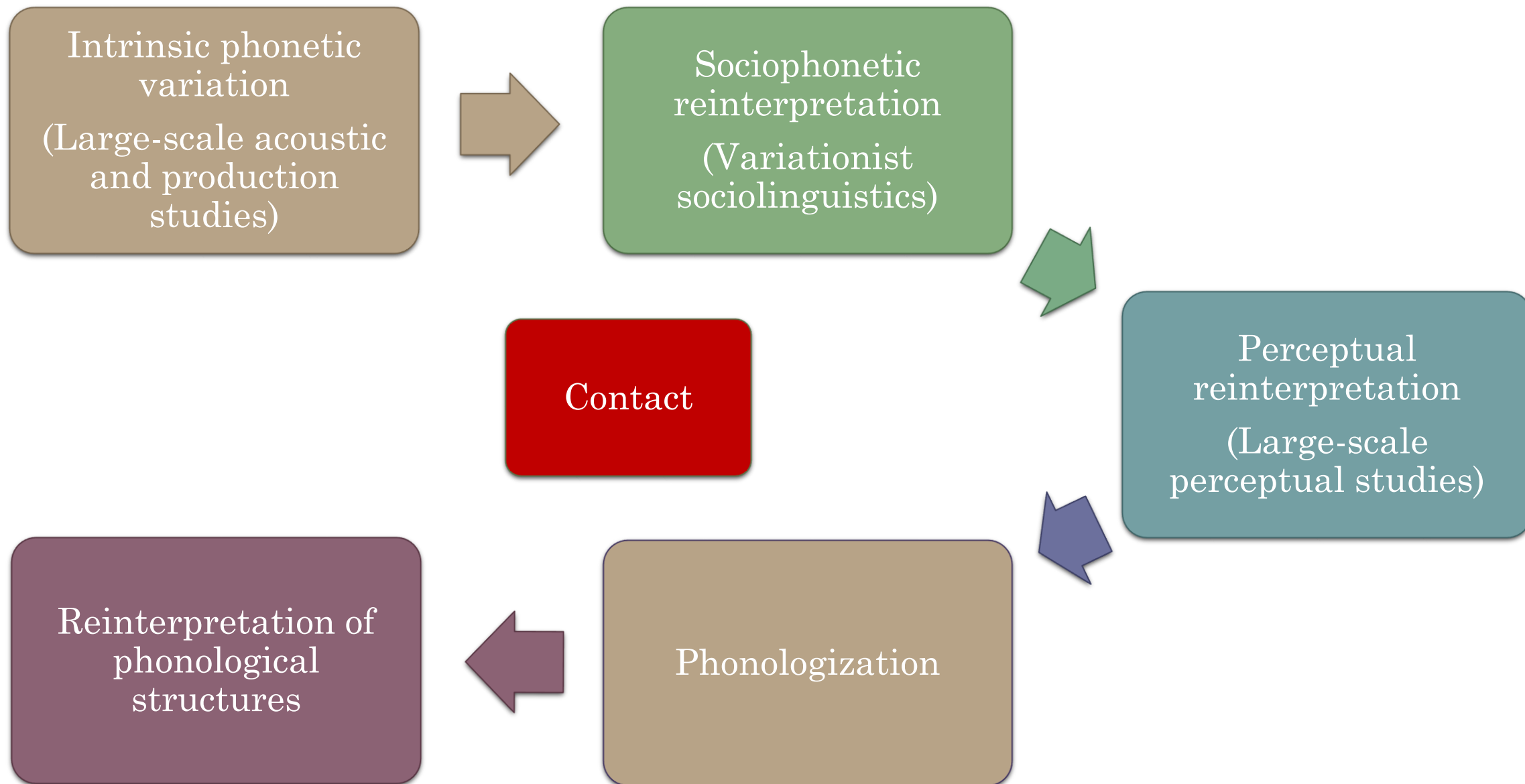
How will the sociocultural, political, and economic changes resulting from the ASEAN integration impact the linguistic diversity and linguistic fieldwork in SEA?

ASEAN integration?

- No real ASEAN integration
  - …or at least almost no effect on daily life or the linguistic landscape in Vietnam and Cambodia

- No official Southeast Asian Language at SEALS
  - Choosing one could be controversial…
  - When SEALS is in Southeast Asia, there could be one session in the national language

Back to ASEAN:
Why isn't there more academic collaboration between ASEAN countries?

- More collaboration with Western countries than between ASEAN researchers

- Possible answers
  - Very different academic traditions
  - Language issues
  - Funding (or expected funding)
  - Touchy political issues between neighboring countries