The cover spectrogram for 'English Phonetics and Phonology'

The new cover design of English Phonetics and Phonology features a spectrogram. You may wonder why we used this particular image. It's actually a recording of my voice saying the words "English Phonetics and Phonology".

The picture shown here is what we call an "annotated spectrogram" based on the image used on the cover of the book, showing how the spoken words correspond to the visual image. I have marked lines at the boundary between each phonetic segment, and added a phonetic symbol to identify what the segment is. You can see the phonetic symbols running across the top. In order to do this I used the excellent Speech Analyser program of SIL (the Summer Institute of Linguistics), who provide the software free at this site:

http://www.sil.org/computing/catalog/show_software.asp?id=57

Producing annotated spectrograms of your own speech recordings is a very valuable exercise in understanding the nature of speech sounds, but it takes quite a lot of practice. I hope to add some tutorial material to the website of the book which will give some guidance on getting started.

Phonetic

ɪ ŋ g l ɪ ʃ f ə n e tʰ ɪ k s ə n f ə n ɒ l ə d ʒ i

Waveform (percentage)

80
60
40
20
0
-20
-40

Phonetic

ɪ ŋ g l ɪ ʃ f ə n e tʰ ɪ k s ə n f ə n ɒ l ə d ʒ i

f(Hz)

3000
2800
2600
2400
2200
2000
1800
1600
1400
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
0

t(sec) 0.500 0.600 0.700 0.800 0.900 1.000 1.100 1.200 1.300 1.400 1.500 1.600 1.700 1.800 1.900 2.000 2.100 2.200 2.300 2.400