

## On Faroese intonation: comparing intonation patterns of the two Faroese varieties spoken in Vestmanna (Streymoy) and in Klaksvík (Borðoy)

We report first results from a map task study designed to study intonation in three locations on the Faroe Islands. Like Icelandic, Faroese is an intonation language marking prominent syllable(s) of utterances typically with pitch peaks. However, so far their distribution has not been investigated systematically. According to Lockwood (1977) and Árnason (2011), declaratives start at a relatively high pitch level and have a downward trend towards a low terminus. According to Lockwood (1977: 25f.), questions, including polar questions (PQs), *wh*-questions (*wh*Qs), question tags (QTs) and declarative questions (declQs), have rising intonation. According to Árnason (2011: 324), however, Faroese *wh*-questions can be falling.

Faroese intonation is also reported to show regional variation, with special varieties in Vágur and Suðuroy (Árnason 2011: 325f.). The present study aims to describe the intonation of declaratives and questions in a variety spoken in Vestmanna (Streymoy) and to identify pitch accent types and boundary tones. The results for Faroese will be compared to the intonation of Icelandic in order to identify differences and commonalities between the two close relatives.

The data used here is taken from a map task experiment carried out by two of the authors in three locations in the Faroe Islands, 26-28 Feb 2019. The maps were the same as those used in related research on Icelandic (see Dehé, 2018), except that all the names of landmarks and streets were adapted to Faroese by a native speaker. We recorded 16 map task dialogues, i.e. 32 speakers: 10 in Klaksvík (island Borðoy), 10 in Tórshavn (Streymoy), and 12 in Vestmanna (Streymoy). All dialogues were transcribed by native speakers of Faroese. Data processing included editing and coding of utterance types as well as annotation of pitch accents and boundary tones and was carried out using Praat (Boersma & Weenink 2019).

Our results show that declaratives are indeed produced with an overall downward trend of F<sub>0</sub> as suggested by Árnason (2011). The default nuclear pitch accent is a high peak realized within the stressed syllable (H\*). Unlike Vestmanna Faroese the default pitch accent type in Klaksvík is L+H\*, i.e. a relatively steep rise on the stressed syllable from a low or medium to a high pitch level, which then falls further towards L%. Furthermore, the two Faroese varieties appear to feature a stress seeking phrase accent, frequently associated with secondarily stressed syllables (Grice, Ladd, & Arvaniti, 2000). For question intonation, our data support Lockwood's claim that all questions types, including non-canonical QTs and DeclQs, are generally rising to H%. The nuclear pitch accent in PQs is typically high, followed by a fall then rise to H%. In rising *wh*Qs, the nuclear accent is typically L\*, followed by the final rise. The *wh*-pronoun in *wh*Qs may be realized with a prenuclear peak accent (H\*).

Comparing Vestmanna and Klaksvík Faroese to the related language Icelandic, the nuclear contour in declaratives seems to be similar (rising-falling or falling from a high stressed syllable), although phrase accents have not been found to be part of the Icelandic tonal inventory. One important difference is question intonation. While PQs as well as *wh*Qs in Icelandic are typically realized with contours falling to L% (Árnason 2011, Dehé 2018, Dehé & Braun 2020), both PQs and *wh*Qs in Vestmanna Faroese are rising to H%.

### References

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