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

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SLBI 2022, Oldenburg, 30th June – 1st July 2022

Faroese intonation:
- previous literature based on introspective data
- declaratives (decl): typically start at high pitch level and have a downwards trend to a low terminus (L%) [1]
- polar questions (PQs): have rising intonation [1]
- wh-questions (whQs): generally have rising intonation [2] but can be realized with falling intonation [1]
- [1] reports regional variation

Results (preliminary)

Example contours
Decl (speaker K04, male, from Klaksvík)
‘then I arrive at Lómastraeti or Munagøta’

PQ (speaker K03, female, from Klaksvík)
‘Can you go along Munagøta?’

whQ (speaker V02, female, from Vestmanna)
‘where is Moldargata with you [on your map]?’

Declarative: high initial pitch falling to low terminus

Rising intonation in a PQ
Skal eg lésa HÆRT? ‘Shall I read aloud’

Falling intonation in a whQ
Hvar kemur ta frá? ‘Where do you come from?’

Participants & items:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Speakers (N)</th>
<th>Age (år)</th>
<th>Decls (N)</th>
<th>PQs (N)</th>
<th>whQs (N)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vestmanna</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>43.8y</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klaksvík</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>30.4y</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data treatment:
- dialogues were orthographically transcribed by native speakers of Faroese
- recordings were coded according to utterance type
- nuclear/pre-nuclear accents and boundary tones were annotated in Praat [3]

Discussion

Q1
- declaratives typically produced with a nuclear pitch peak and a falling contour (ending in L%)
- both PQs and whQs preferably realized with a final rise (H%)
- (!)H* most frequent nuclear peak accent across utterance types but rising peak accents also observed (L+(!)H*)
- additionally we find preliminary evidence for a stress seeking phrase accent (see e.g. [5])

Q2
- L+(!)H* used more frequently by K than by V speakers across all sentence types
- more frequent use of L% in whQs by K speakers than by V speakers

Nuclear accents (values rounded)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>nuclear accent</th>
<th>place</th>
<th>decls (N=744)</th>
<th>PQs (N=132)</th>
<th>whQs (N=36)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(!)H*</td>
<td>Vestmanna</td>
<td>92.0%</td>
<td>77.7%</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Klaksvík</td>
<td>75.0%</td>
<td>61.7%</td>
<td>55.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>L+(!)H*</td>
<td>Vestmanna</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Klaksvík</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L*</td>
<td>Vestmanna</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Klaksvík</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Boundary tone (values rounded)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>boundary tone</th>
<th>place</th>
<th>decls (N=744)</th>
<th>PQs (N=132)</th>
<th>whQs (N=36)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H%</td>
<td>Vestmanna</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>91.8%</td>
<td>81.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Klaksvík</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>95.7%</td>
<td>55.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>L%</td>
<td>Vestmanna</td>
<td>86.2%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
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<td>2.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>Vestmanna</td>
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<td>1.2%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Klaksvík</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Methodology

Map Task:
- maps adapted from [4] for Faroese
- names of streets and landmarks written on maps to allow for some control of elicited data
- participants tested in pairs, asking for and receiving directions to landmarks

Research questions

Q1: What are the typical intonation patterns for declaratives, polar questions and wh-questions in Faroese, in terms of pitch accents and boundary tones?

Q2: Do Faroese nuclear contours underlie regional variation; here: Vestmanna (Streymoy) vs. Klaksvík (Borðoy)?

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