

Prosodic change in apparent time and real time

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The LANCHART corpus consists of two sets of sociolinguistic interviews conducted with the same selection of speakers at two different times: the first set was recorded in the 1980s and the second set was recorded in the 2000s (Gregersen et al. 2014). So far the corpus has been used mainly for the study of segmental and grammatical change between generations (apparent time studies of change) and between the two times of recording (real time studies of change). Recently, we have begun to conduct acoustic analyses of the fundamental frequency contour associated with stressed syllables, the so-called tonal stress group pattern, a feature which has been shown to vary systematically between different regional accents of Danish (Grønnum 2022, Phrao & Tøndering 2020). We have focused on the sub-corpus of interviews with men born and raised in Næstved, a small city 85 kilometers south of Copenhagen. Previous studies of read speech conducted around the time of the original recordings in the 1980s showed that speakers from Næstved have a rising tone throughout the stressed syllable, in distinction to the pattern from Copenhagen, where stressed syllables have a low tone with a rise to the first post tonic syllable. In our analyses between generations in the recordings from 2007 we find that the older generation retains the rise throughout the stressed syllable, but the younger generation exhibits the low tone with subsequent rise familiar from Copenhagen speakers. The findings suggest a prosodic change in apparent time and we are currently analysing the recordings from the 1980s to study if the change arose earlier or if it might be an example of a real time change in the younger generation.

REFs

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