

**Cross-dialectal Prosodic Accommodation:
Evidence from Andalusian Spanish in Asturias**

Aurora Troncoso-Ruiz, Gorka Elordieta

University of the Basque Country (Spain)

mariadelaurora.troncoso@ehu.eus, gorka.elordieta@ehu.eus

As empirical studies on language contact situations show, linguistic features can be transferred from one language or dialect to another. The subjacent mechanism underlying linguistic transfer is the notion of accommodation [1], which refers to a speaker's ability to modify their linguistic patterns in order to adjust them to the interlocutor's speech. This study focuses on the dialect accommodation of Andalusian speakers (Southern Spain) relocated in Asturias (Northern Spain) in prosody. In Asturias, Spanish is the dominant language, in contact with Asturian. A new variety has emerged in which Spanish and Asturian converge, namely *Amestáu*. 4 Andalusian women were recorded in spontaneous conversation on life-related topics with two interlocutors, an Andalusian one and an *Amestáu* one. We obtained at least 10 declaratives, 10 absolute interrogatives and 10 partial interrogatives from each relocated speaker. This corpus was then compared to description of Asturian varieties [2] and Andalusian Spanish [3], supported by our own corpora of both varieties. The pitch accents in stressed syllables were annotated following Sp_ToBI tone labelling conventions [4].

Asturian prototypical configurations include the falling nuclear accent (H+L* L%) in declarative sentences and partial interrogatives (Figs. 1 and 3) and the falling boundary tone in absolute interrogatives (H* HL%, Fig. 2). The analysis of the data shows that Asturian configurations were more frequently found in the speech of relocated Andalusians when they were in conversation with the *Amestáu* interlocutor. 67.5% of all declaratives ended in the typical nuclear configurations of *Amestáu* (H+L* L%), 78% of all absolute interrogatives ended in a falling configuration (H* HL%), and 44.5% of all the partial interrogatives displayed a falling contour (H+L* L%). In other words, features of Andalusian Spanish such as the final low configurations of declaratives (L* L%), the rising nuclear contours of absolute interrogatives (L* H%) and the circumflex final contour in partial interrogatives (L+H* L%) were much less frequent when Andalusian speakers addressed an *Amestáu* interlocutor. This fact supports the decisive role of the interlocutor plays in accommodation.

Phonetic salience also plays a role. The falling nuclear contours in absolute interrogatives typical of *Amestáu* (H+L* L%) are salient to the Andalusian speakers, with mostly rising configurations (L* H%). Both the nuclear accent and the boundary tone of *Amestáu* are different to the Andalusian variety. The difference between the falling nuclear accents in declaratives typical of *Amestáu* (H+L* L%) and Andalusian (L* L%) is not so salient, as only the nuclear accent is different; the contour is falling in both cases. Our results indicate that the Andalusian speakers' increase in the percentage of Asturian configurations in absolute interrogatives when speaking to an *Amestáu* interlocutor is in declaratives. In addition, the most frequent Asturian configuration for partial interrogatives (H+L* L%) is also found in Andalusian Spanish and displays the lowest percentage of appearance. This would suggest that most salient features are acquired more easily.

The sociolinguistic interviews provided enough data to indicate the degree of social integration of the relocated speakers in Asturias following the classification proposed in [5]. There is a correlation between the degree of integration and the accommodating behaviour (cf. [6] and [7]). Those speakers that were more comfortably integrated (speakers 3 and 4)

showed a higher degree of accommodation than those who were not (speakers 2 and 1). The results of this preliminary study should be confirmed with more relocated speakers.

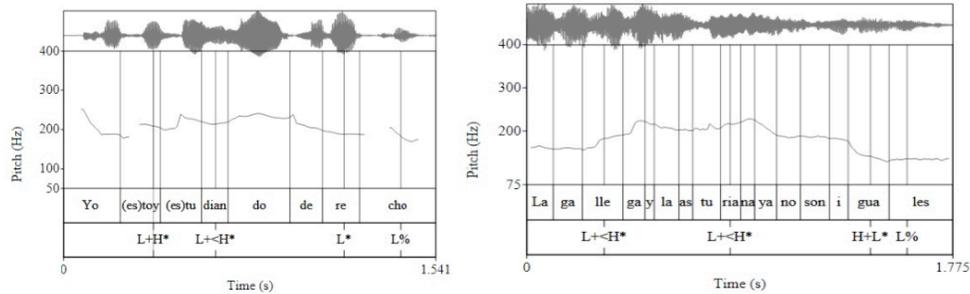


Figure 1 Waveform, and F0 curve of the declarative sentences for Andalusian Spanish (left) Yo estoy estudiando derecho ('I am studying law') and Amestáu (right) La gallega y la asturiana ya no son iguales ('The Galician and the Asturian [bagpipes] are not the same').

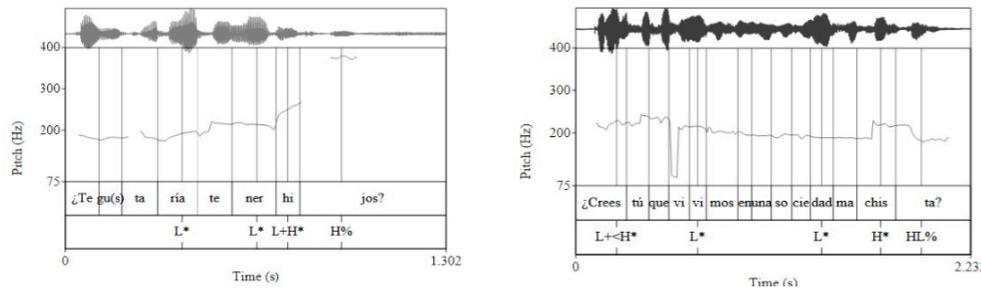


Figure 2 Waveform and F0 curve of the absolute interrogatives for Andalusian Spanish (left) ¿Te gustaría tener hijos? ('Would you like to have children?') and Amestáu (right) ¿Crees tú que vivimos en una sociedad machista? ('Do you think we live in a sexist society?')

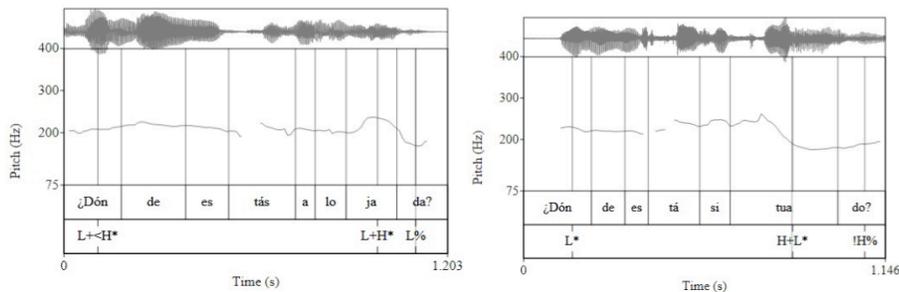


Figure 3 Waveform and F0 curve of the partial interrogatives for Andalusian Spanish (left) ¿Dónde estás alojada? ('Where are you staying?') and Amestáu (right) Y ¿dónde está situado? ('And, where is it located?')

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