

DEJAN SREDOJEVIĆ

University of Novi Sad
dsredojevic@yahoo.com

How much do phonetic realisations of Serbian accents actually differ from each other in various dialects?

The most significant result of the extensive research of accents in the Serbo-Croatian language conducted by Ivić and Lehiste lies in the fact that the distinctions between falling and rising accents are based on the pitch relation between the accented and the following vowel while with the long accents, the distinction is enabled by very pitch movement within the accented vowel (which is (rising)-falling in long falling accent and moderately rising in long rising accent). However, the abovementioned research and the studies which followed were mainly based on the corpus obtained from the speakers from those dialect areas which had been used as the basis for the establishment of the standard language. Speakers originating from dialects which have less than four standard accents, as well as those who acquired all four accents but have not yet mastered the rules of their distribution – have not been observed. In this research paper, speakers originating from Neo-Štokavian but also those from old štokavian areas have been analysed. Unlike the previous studies, in which sentences had been read out loud, in this study the speakers (126 student from the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad) were interpreting a long newspaper article. The aim of this research was to determine the identical phonetic features in the pronunciation of the same accents of the students originating from different dialects. We analysed the following acoustic parameters: f_0 range (between the onset and the ending of the accented vowel, between the ending of the accented vowel and the onset of the next vowel, between the maximum f_0 values for these vowels) and the difference between the intensity of the accented and the following vowel. The research shows that the differences between accents based on the pitch relation between the accented and the following vowel can be defined more precisely than it was the case before and that the differences in the phonetic realisation of accent between some speeches are not as drastic as it was believed before.