

## SENTENCE STRESS AND TONAL ACCENTS

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The present paper raises the question: how are the tonal accents in Swedish manifested when they occur in stress positions other than sentence stress position (cf. Gårding 1967)?

The inspiration of this preliminary study is the proposal of a binary suprasegmental system for English by Vanderslice & Ladefoged (1971), where sentence stress - 1-stress - is analysed as [+ ACCENT], [+ INTONATION], while other non-primary stresses are equated: [+ ACCENT], [- INTONATION], i.e. a sentence stressed syllable is distinguished from other stressed syllables by the contribution of sentence intonation - the tonal manifestation of statement or question - and not by degree of stress. The aim of this paper is to test the validity of a corresponding treatment of Swedish accentual phenomena. The hypothesis is that one should be able to subtract what depends on sentence intonation by looking at the manifestations of the two contrasting tonal accents - accent 1 and accent 2 - in stress positions other than sentence stress position and there find the 'true' tonal accents, i.e. the tonal accents unaffected by sentence intonation.

In order to test this hypothesis the following test sentences were devised:

1. Neutral statement: answer to the question "What were you doing?"

vi lira' { båndy } vi' { vällén } (we played { båndy } near the { slope }  
                   { kúla }                    { vållarna }                    { marbles }                    { slopes } )

2. Statement, game emphasized; answer to the question "What game were you playing there?"

vi lira' { BÅNDY } vi' { vällén }  
                   { KÚLA }                    { vållarna }

3. Statement, place emphasized; answer to the question "Where were you playing the game?"

vi lira' {bāndy  
kūla} vi' {VÄLLEN  
VÄLLARNA}

The dialect under examination is the Stockholm dialect.

From earlier investigations we know that in the Stockholm dialect the Fo-curve of the grave accent has two peaks with a valley in between. The first peak is located in the stressed syllable and the second peak is in the last syllable of the word. The acute accent is usually characterized by a rise in the stressed syllable, often preceded by a small dip (Öhman 1967). The Fo-data of the present study show that in sentence stress position the manifestations of accent 1 and 2 are as described above. But in other stress positions we find a different picture: the grave accent has only one peak, in the stressed syllable, while the second one is missing. The acute accent is manifested merely as a valley.

Now how do we interpret the data? It may be suggested that the second peak of the grave accent, which is present only in sentence stress position, is the tonal manifestation of statement intonation, so that the first peak of the grave accent is what actually embodies the grave word accent. But what about the acute accent? One interpretation is that the valley, which is the manifestation of the acute accent in non-primary stress position constitutes the 'true' acute word accent. In sentence stress position this valley will be smoothed out by the sentence intonation peak, so that we will get the picture of a mainly rising acute accent. It has been shown that the Fo-pattern characteristic of the acute accent recurs in the later part of the grave accent, i.e. the second peak (Gårding 1970). So the same statement intonation pattern is found both in the grave and the acute accent in sentence stress position, but occurs

earlier for the acute accent, so that the acute valley is affected by the sentence intonation peak, while the grave peak is left unaffected by it.

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