

AN EMPTY SPACE ON THE MAP

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Under this heading I talked about the twofold aim of the laboratory work the students are obliged to attend in order to carry out the basic courses in phonetics in Lund. 1. In the first place we want to create stimulating tasks for the students. We consider it meaningful for them to "discover new lands" in phonetics. 2. In the second place we are interested in the description and classification of dialects by prosodic criteria. This term, spring 1973, the combination of these aims has resulted in one group's concentration on the F₀ pattern in the accent 1 and accent 2 words of the inhabitants in Kronoberg county in Småland (in the south of Sweden). This work is an offshoot especially from Gårding and Lindblad's work (1973). See also Lindblad's paper on Dialectal variation and constancy in Swedish word accent patterns in this volume (p. 49). Our starting point was the tonal dialect map of Sweden given by Gårding and Lindblad (p. 48) and Gårding's tentative tonal typology for accent 1 and accent 2 words in Swedish (p. 46). The southern part of the map is shown in Fig. 1. As shown on the map, the tonal data are unevenly distributed over the country. For example, north of Skåne (in the south of Sweden) there is an "empty space on the map". This area has traditionally been regarded as belonging to the South-Swedish dialect area. The tradition is based mainly on non-prosodic phonetic features. There is also some evidence regarding perceptual data that people in this area "need a fundamental frequency rise to perceive a grave word and a fall to hear an acute" in the stressed syllable just as the Skåne inhabitants do, see Johansson (1970, p. 70).

The material used consisted of disyllabic minimal pairs with tonal accent contrast and with the first syllable stressed, and the corresponding monosyllabic word, e.g. pålen - Polen, Pål. The informants were five phonetically naïve persons from Kronoberg county. Each informant was recorded twice and at different sessions.

Contrary to what has often been assumed our data showed no conformity to the Skåne prosodic patterns. The outstanding feature which all the five informants had in common was a two-peaked accent 2 pattern with one peak in each syllable. Fig. 2 shows the typical accent 2 pattern. This pattern resembled both the Svea dialects (type 2A in Gårding's tonal typology) and the Göta dialects (type 2B). The timing of the peak within the syllable seemed to be irrelevant because no consistent pattern was found. The acute accent showed a still more varying F_0 pattern, probably due to varied intonation, but the tonal peak was always in the stressed syllable and it was mostly late in the syllable also, as shown in Fig. 3. Consequently there is no similarity with the acute pattern in type 2B, as this pattern has its tonal peak in the post-tonic syllable. The character of the tonal accent in the dialect of these five informants thus seems to fit fairly well with type 2A in Gårding's typology, that is the Svea dialects (in Central Sweden).

Needed: more informants from Småland.

Volunteers may address themselves to: Phonetics Laboratory, Lund University.

References

- Gårding E. and Lindblad P. 1973. Constancy and variation in Swedish word accent patterns. Working Papers 7. Phonetics Laboratory, Lund University
- Johansson K. 1970. Perceptual experiments with Swedish disyllabic accent 1 and accent 2 words. Working Papers 3. Phonetics Laboratory, Lund University.
- Lindblad P. 1973. Dialectal variation and constancy in Swedish word accent patterns. Working Papers 8. Phonetics Laboratory, Lund University

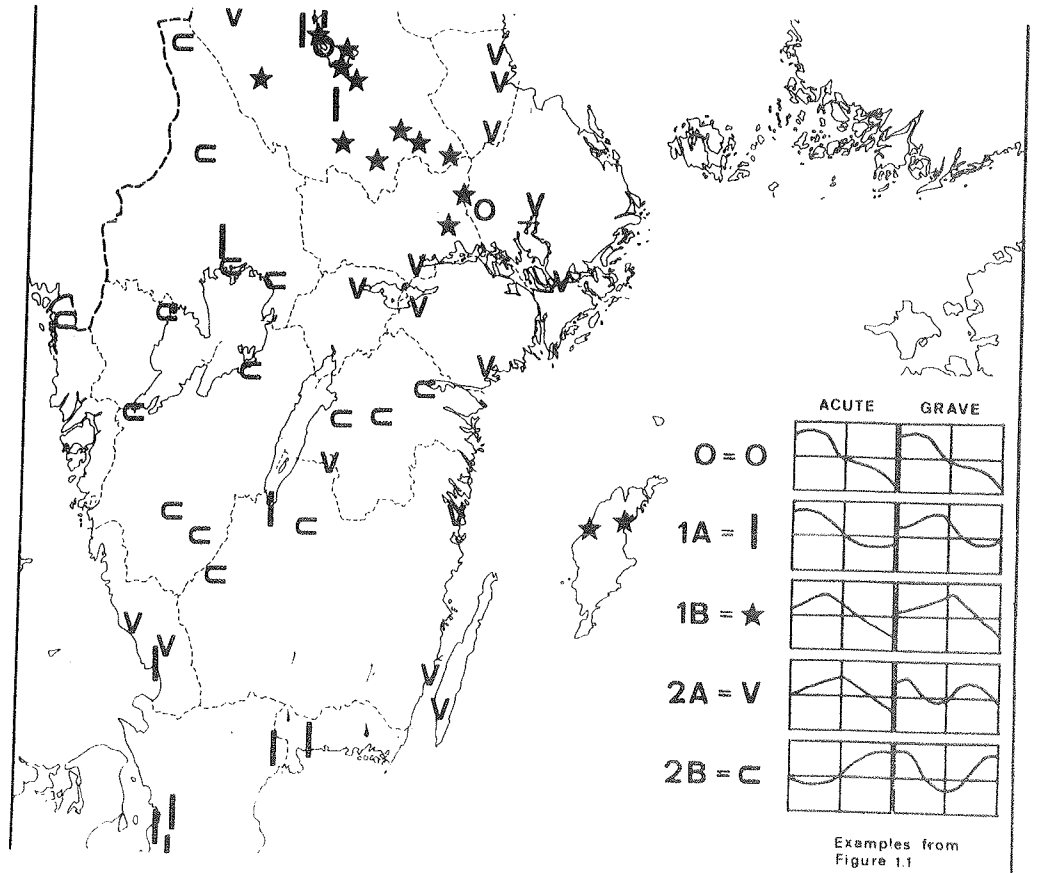


Fig. 1.

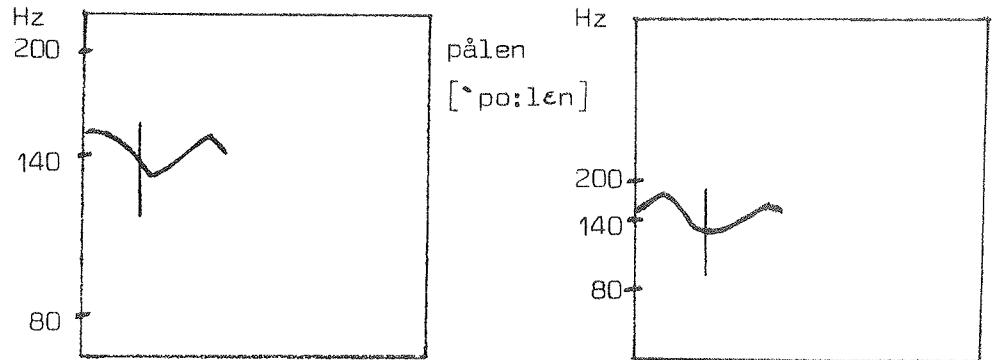


Fig. 2. Accent 2. Speaker: CJ, Alvesta

Speaker: PT, Ryd

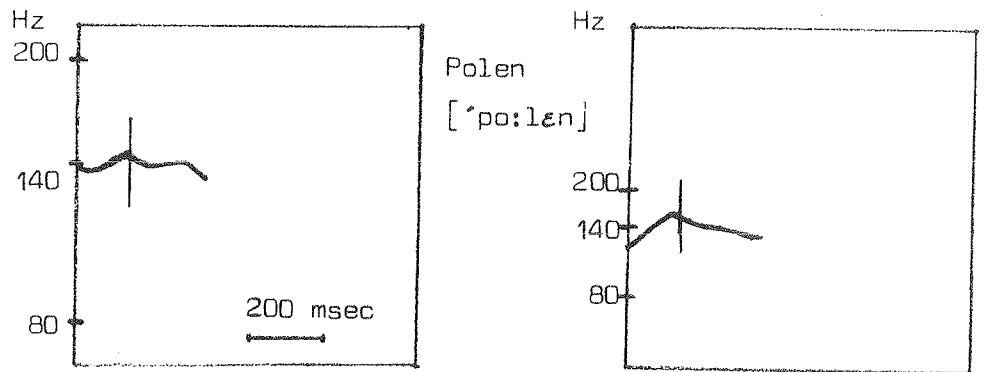


Fig. 3. Accent 1. Speaker: CJ, Alvesta

Speaker: PT, Ryd

