

Knut Fintoft, Per Egil Mjaavatn, Einar Møllergård and
Brit Ulseth
Department of Linguistics
University of Trondheim

TONEME PATTERNS IN NORWEGIAN DIALECTS

Introduction

The purpose of the present investigation is to trace the F_0 -curves in as many dialects as possible and to categorize the different realizations of the tonemes. The results are based on analyses of about 40 000 curves registrated for about 1000 persons from about 450 different places.

Method

The investigation has been restricted to disyllabic words of the type / $(K(K)) V:KV$ /. The informants read a list of tonemic pairs embedded in the same sentence.

The recordings were sent through a Pitchmeter and F_0 -tracings and duplex oscillograms were displayed on a mingograph. For each word both the time and the F_0 have been measured by hand at 7 points on the curve within / $V:KV$ /. By means of these measurements the curves have been normalized in time and frequency, and it is thus possible to give average curves for each place. The dialects in respect to the relative position of the maxima and minima of the F_0 -curves can thus easily be compared.

Results

It turns out that when moving from one area to another the toneme patterns change gradually and quite often the pattern for toneme 1 and toneme 2 changes differently. In this way the different categories occur.

A rough categorization is based on the number and the relative position of the peaks within / $V:KV$ /. The main categories are found in the following regions:

1. Eastern Norway with a variant in Trøndelag, 2. Nordland and Southern Troms, 3. Western Norway (from Romsdal to Sunnhordaland) and 4. Rogaland. Between the regions there is a transition area. In Agder the picture is rather complex. In parts of Troms, in Finnmark, and at places around Bergen we have found no difference between the toneme curves.