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THE ROLE OF ACCENT ATTENUATION IN DESCRIPTIONS OF  
EAST NORWEGIAN SENTENCE INTONATION

The purpose of this paper is to demonstrate the importance of recognizing two distinct functionally significant kinds of accentuation in S.-E. Norwegian. Any ACCENT UNIT of a Norwegian utterance (i.e. the stretch of utterance from one accented syllable to the next) is either ATTENUATED or UNATTENUATED. The former lacks the rising tone characteristic of the E.N. word accents, but the difference between Acc 1 and Acc 2 is maintained, as the realization of the accented syllable is virtually the same for attenuated and unattenuated accent groups.

Attenuation combined with successive lowering of the pitch of the accented syllables in the utterance is probably the most important indication of falling intonation in E.N. The tonal profile of the last unattenuated syllable (the FOCUS) plays a minor role in this respect. The intonation is falling in (1), where 'a' stands for 'attenuation' and '1' and '2' for the respective word accents.

- (1) a. Ikke <sup>2</sup>flere <sup>a1</sup>bønder <sup>a1</sup>nå | \ ' | - . | - . | - |  
 b. Ikke <sup>2</sup>flere <sup>a1</sup>bø<sup>a2</sup>nnere <sup>a1</sup>nå | \ ' | - . | \ . | - |

I. Gå is the only accented word in the question of (3). It is the focus of (3), and the corresponding anaphoric phrase of the answer to (3) will normally act as utterance TOPIC. At the same time the intonation of the answer should be falling. (4) and (7) are therefore appropriate answers. (5) is not. (6) sounds peculiar because kan is FOCALIZED (last unatt. accent).

- (3) Kan jeg gå nå? (4) Ja. Det <sup>1</sup>kan du. <sup>a1</sup>  
 (5) Ja. ??Det kan du.  
 (6) Ja. ?Det kan du. <sup>1</sup>  
 (7) Ja. Det kan du <sup>a1</sup>godt.

Attenuation after the topic means falling intonation and in addition shift of focus from the modal verb to the topic.

II. The importance of intonation as an indicator of the scope of adverbial operators will be demonstrated. Which of the two underlined constituents of (8) is bound by også?

- (8) Han kjøpte også edamerost.  
 The results of a perception test will be presented.

III. Intonation cannot change the fact that the cleft sentence of (9) presupposes the truth of (10).

- (9) Det er den sykdommen som heter emfysem.  
 (10) Den sykdommen heter emfysem.  
 However, (11) presupposes (10) only if one or both of the accentable words heter and emfysem of the relative clause is either unaccented or accented but attenuated.  
 (11) Jeg tror det er den sykdommen som heter emfysem.  
 (11') Jeg tror det er den sykdommen som heter emfysem. <sup>a1</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>a2</sup> <sup>a2</sup> <sup>1</sup>  
 If all accent units are unattenuated, the presupposition is 'filtered out'. This is what happens in (11").  
 (11") Jeg tror det er den sykdommen som heter emfysem. <sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>