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The Intonation of the Simple Declarative Sentence in Icelandic

In this paper, which is the first scientific and experimental contribution to the study of Icelandic intonation, the intonation of simple declarative sentences has been examined. The sentences were constructed in such a way that each of the accents could be emphatically stressed. It is shown that the number of accents in the sentence modifies the intonation curve, if the sentence has more than four accents. However, it can be said that this type of sentence can be described by means of the so-called "hat model". This model seems to be current in the Germanic languages.

The intonation of sentences in which one of the accents is made emphatic resembles a small hill in a flat landscape. The emphasis is realised phonetically by greater duration of the accented vowel and by higher fundamental frequency. Sometimes the duration of the whole word increases.

Surprising is the frequently observed increase of the fundamental frequency on the last syllable of the word. This increase remains unexplained and here it is necessary to undertake a new investigation.