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#### HOW DOES A FINN SPEAK?

Observations on some phonetic variables in spoken Finnish<sup>1</sup>

This report deals with observations on the speech behaviour and speech communication by Finnish pupils attending vocational schools and college. Attention is focused on the linguistic and paralinguistic codes.

Tasks requiring short oral descriptions of cartoons and the reading of written texts of varying degrees of linguistic complexity were administered. A description will be given of the factors relating to the differences by means of some parameters of speech, such as pitch level, the rate of articulation (syllables per second), and the duration and frequency of pauses (longer than 0.2 sec.). Some parameters will be set against observations in other languages.

Preliminary results indicate that (1) the rate of articulation in reading is lower and the use of pauses is almost significantly greater with pupils attending vocational schools, whose education is not verbally oriented; (2) there are more differences in sex roles regarding the use of pitch level in vocational schools than in colleges.

It appears that the differences between the groups and the types of texts produced are in part explicable by sociological factors and textual roles and other variables of the speech situation.

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