# Intonation in Fala and its comparison with Spanish, Portuguese and Galician

# O. What did we want to know?

- (i) Fill in a gap in the study of this language because its prosody has not been studied before.
- (ii) Most frequent pitch accents and boundary tones in declaratives, absolute and partial interrogatives utterances in Fala.
- (iii) Comparison with its neighbouring languages (Spanish and Portuguese) and with Galician (probably, its origin language).

# 1. What is Fala?

- Ibero-Romance language in Spain on the border with Portugal.
- Galician is assumed to be its origin language.
- Spoken in Extremadura, specifically in: Valverde del Fresno (1), Eljas (2) and San Martín de Trevejo (3).
- 6000 speakers.

# 2. Methodology

- 12 speakers > 4 speakers from each village > 2 males and 2 females. Between 35 and 55 years of age. Secondary education.
- Declarative (DEC), absolute (ABS) and partial (PAR) interrogative utterances in spontaneous and read speech were collected.



- **Spontaneous speech:** Declaratives: the subject is interviewed by a local villager on a variety of topics related to life in the town and the area.

Interrogatives: the subject interviews the local villager on the same topics.



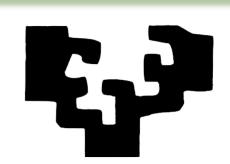
- Read speech: 15 sentences, read three times.

- 434 spontaneous utterances and 540 read utterances. Following AM model, prenuclear and nuclear pitch accents and boundary tones were analyzed of each utterance: 5866 pitch accents overall.

3. 7	Result	F	Prenuclear accent	Nuclear accent	<b>Boundary Tone</b>
	<b>H</b>		L+>H*/L+H*	L* / L+H*	L%
		$\bigcirc$	L* / H* / L+>H* / L+H*	L+H* / L+>H* / L*	H% / L%
	35		L+>H* / L+H* // !H* / L+H*	L* / L+H*	H%
	ABS	$\bigcirc$	L+>H* // H* / L+H*	L+H* / L+>H*	L% / H%
	<b>X</b>		L+>H* / L+H* // H* / L+H*	L* / H*+L	H%
	PA	$\bigcirc$	H* / L+>H* // H* / L+H* / !H*	L* / H*+L	L%

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### 4. Comparison with Spanish

		Prenuclear accent	Nuclear accent	<b>Boundary Tone</b>	
DEC		L+>H*	<b>L*</b>	L%	
	$\bigcirc$	L+>H* / L+H*		L% / H%	
ABS		I <b>*</b> . U <b>/</b> I . <b>、</b> U <b>*</b>	L*	H%	
	$\bigcirc$	L*+H / L+>H*	L+H*	L%	
PAR		H*	L* / H+L*	L% / H%	

# 5. Comparison with Portuguese

	Prenuclear accent	Nuclear accent	<b>Boundary Tone</b>	
DEC	-	H+L*	L%	X
ABS	<b>-</b>	H+L*	LH%	X
PAR	<b>-</b>	H+L*	L%	X

# 6. Comparison with Galician

	Prenuclear accent	Nuclear accent	<b>Boundary Tone</b>	
DEC	L+>H*	H+L*	L%	X
ABS	L+>H* // H*	H+L* / L+H*	L%	

#### 7. Conclusions

- Total similarity with Spanish: heavy contact, bilingualism and language and instruction. Opening of the villages in the last quarter of the XXth century.
- •Some similarities with Galician: possible remnant of the original language. Need further investigation.
- •No intonational similarities at all with Portuguese despite the geographical proximity and the historical economic relationship.

#### References

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