1. Goals of this study

The first goal is to describe the intonational tunes found in the contact variety Olivenza Spanish (OLI-SPA). The second aim is to contrast the intonational patterns of OLI-SPA to those of Castilian Spanish (CAST-SPA) and Standard Portuguese (STA-PORT) in order to detect possible transfer from the contact variety Portuguese. The third objective consists in comparing the rhythmic properties of OLI-SPA to those of CAST-SPA.

Hypothesis:
1) OLI-SPA shares tonal characteristics with the contact language Portuguese
2) OLI-SPA patterns with CAST-SPA concerning speech rhythm

2. Background

Historical background: Olivenza is located in the border area between Extremadura (Spain) and Alentejo (Portugal). It was under Portuguese rule from 1297 on and became part of Spain in 1802 (Torres Gallego, 2007).

Result: Spanish-Portuguese bilingualism (until the middle of the 20th century, Carrasco González, 2006) and language contact between Portugal and Spanish which leads to possible transfer

Prosodic differences between CAST-SPA and STA-PORT:
1) Intonation:
   a. Pitch accent distribution in declaratives: Stressed syllables between the first and last one of the IP tend to be accentless in STA-PORT, in contrast to CAST-SPA (Vigário & Frota, 2004)
   b. Tonal realization of broad focus statements: L+H+ pitch accents in prenuclear position followed by a nuclear configuration L* L% in CAST-SPA vs. H* prenuclear accents followed by H+L* L% in STA-PORT
   c. Tonal realization of final contours in neutral yes-no questions: L* HH% in CAST-SPA vs. H+L* LH% in STA-PORT
   d. Tonal realization of final contours in neutral wh-questions: L* L% or L* HH% in CAST-SPA vs. H+L* L% or H+L* LH% in STA-PORT

2) Speech rhythm: STA-PORT has mixed rhythm, i.e., great durational variability of consonantal intervals that places it in the stress-timed class, but variability of vocalic intervals and proportion of vocalic material that locates it in the syllable-timed class (Frota & Vigário, 2001). CAST-SPA is a syllable-timed language (see Kireva & Gabriel, 2013; Ramus et al., 1999)

3. Methodology

Subjects
10 monolingual OLI-SPA speakers: 5 male, 5 female, mean age = 25.1 years, range age: 18-35 years. Education: formal or university education

Materials
a. Reading of the fable The North Wind and the Sun (for the rhythmic analysis)
   b. Semi-spontaneous speech was collected using the so-called intonation survey (see Prieto & Roseano, 2010). 573 sentences were analyzed in total: 154 declaratives (20 broad focus statements), 131 yes-no questions (40 neutral yes-no questions), 202 wh-questions (78 neutral wh-questions), 36 imperatives, and 50 vocatives (for the intonational analysis). A subset of 300 sentences were analyzed for the rhythmic analysis: 100 declaratives, 90 yes-no questions, 90 wh-questions, and 20 imperatives
   c. 60 SVO sentences were recorded using a PowerPoint presentation containing 6 different visual stimuli (for analysis of prosodic phrasing)

Intonational analysis: The inventory of pitch accents and boundary tones was established using the Spanish ToBI labeling system (see Beckman et al., 2002; Prieto & Roseano, 2010)

Rhythmic analysis: Segmentation of materials into C and V intervals. Six rhythm metrics were calculated: $\mu$, VarCorC, VarCorC, CNPVI, CrPVI, and CNPVI (Dellwo & Wagner, 2003; Grabe & Low, 2002; Kinoshita & Sheppard, 2011; Ramus et al., 1999; White & Mattys, 2007). The values for OLI-SPA obtained from the analysis of the read data were compared to the scores for CAST-SPA presented in Kireva and Gabriel (2013) (6 speakers of CAST-SPA: 4 male, 2 female, mean age = 33.5 years, range age: 26-51 years)

Vowel reduction was attested in unstressed syllables in OLI-SPA: Thus, all stressed and unstressed /a/ and /o/ occurring in the read data were auditorily and acoustically analyzed

4. Results and Discussion

Inventory of pitch accents in OLI-SPA
a. Monotonal accents
   H
b. Bitonal accents:
   L+H*, L+H+, H+L*, H+L+, H+H%

Inventory of boundary tones at BI 3 (-) and BI 4 (%):
   a. Monotonal tones
   b. Bitonal tones:
   L- L% H* H% H* H% H* H* H* H* H
   L* L* H* H* H* H* H* H* H* H* H*

Table 1: Mean values for the fable The North Wind and the Sun for CAST-SPA (Kireva & Gabriel, 2013) and OLI-SPA

Vowel reduction: Unstressed /a/ was produced as [ə] in 66% of the cases and unstressed /o/ was produced as [ə] in 18% of the cases

5. Conclusion

OLI-SPA seems to be influenced by the contact language Portuguese. Its prosodic system can be interpreted as the result of convergence between the prosodic systems of Spanish and Portuguese

Further aims of this study: Prosodic analysis of the contact variety Olivenza Spanish and Portuguese comparison across Olivenza Spanish, Olivenza Portuguese, Evora Portuguese (Alentejo), Castilian Spanish, and Standard Portuguese

References


Fig. 1: %VarCorC for the fable The North Wind and the Sun for Castilian Spanish (CAST-SPA) and Olivenza Spanish (OLI-SPA)