**INTRODUCTION**

- High Rise Terminals (HRTs) or ‘uptalk’ are rising pitch movements at the end of utterances.
- HRTs in Australian, New Zealand, and British English have been well-studied (Fletcher et al., 2005 for a review), but American English HRT usage has not.
- Gender differences have been reported, but pragmatic differences are less well understood.

**Research Questions**

- What are the uses of HRTs in Southern Californian (SoCal) English in particular?
- Are different pragmatic functions related to phonologically different melodies, as in Australian English in which HRTs used with statements are analyzed as L* H-H and those used with questions as H* H-H%?
- Do sociolinguistic variables such as gender, region and social status affect HRTs and if so, how?
  - Do sociolinguistic variables affect the phonetic realization of HRTs?
  - Or do they result in phonological variation as well?
  - Do sociolinguistic variables affect the distribution of melodies and the discourse functions of HRT?

**METHODS**

- Participants: 23 Native Southern Californian speakers (12 female, 11 male) from San Diego (7), Orange (6), Los Angeles (8), and Riverside Counties (2)
- Ethnic background: 12 Asian, 6 Hispanic, 5 White; 8 speakers reported being bilingual
- For SES, speakers were categorized using the Mac Arthur Scale of Subjective Social Status as Lower (1-4; n = 4), Middle (5-7; n = 13) and Upper (7-10; n = 6)

**Analysis**

- Type of Final Pitch Movement: Rise (HRT)
  - Speakers used rises more often in the Map Task than in the Clip Retell task [p<0.001]
  - Females used plateaux more often than males [p<0.001]
  - Discourse Function: (a) questions and confirmation requests were signaled by rises 100% of the time (b) rises were used to hold the floor more often than for simple statements [p<0.001]

- Alignment of the Rise (HRT)
  - Females had later alignment than males [p=0.001]
  - Discourse Function: Statement HRTs had later alignment than Question HRTs [p=0.001]

- Pitch Excursion of the Rise (HRT)
  - Greater excursion in the Map Task than in the Clip Retell task [p=0.001]
  - Females used greater excursion than males [p=0.001]
  - Discourse Function: Question & Confirmation Request HRTs > Floor Holding HRTs > Statement HRTs [p=0.001]

**Phonological Analysis of Discourse Function**

- In the present data, HRTs were used for four discourse functions:
  1. simple statements, (2) floor holding, (3) confirmation requests, (4) questions
- Question HRT: L* H-H%
- Confirmation request HRT: variable realization
- Floor holding HRT: H-L% for plateaux; variable for HRT
- Statement HRT: L* H-H%

**DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- Gender usage of HRTs in SoCal English: Females use HRTs more often than males, and have later alignment and greater pitch excursion than males. These findings are similar to those for New Zealand English (Daly & Warren 2001).
- Other sociolinguistic variables (region, SES status) do not seem to play a role in HRT usage or realization.
- Different discourse functions are signaled by different melodies that can all together be described as HRTs: statement HRTs are L* L-H% and question HRTs L* H-H% (cf. Australian English where the difference is only in the pitch accent: L* H-H% vs. H* H-H%, respectively).

- In So Cal English, there does not appear to be one type of HRT. Phonologically different types of HRT result in a change of discourse function (statements vs. questions).
- While the results with respect to gender are similar to those from Australian and New Zealand English varieties, SoCal English has more consistent phonological differences relating to pragmatic function.
- Other types of discourse function (e.g., holding the floor, confirmation request) merit further investigation.

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**REFERENCES**
