InTraSAL: AN INTONATIONAL MODEL FOR SOUTH ASIAN LANGUAGES

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QUESTION & BACKGROUND

- South Asia is called a "linguistic area" [356]
- "Typical" South Asian lgs (SALs) have:
  - Retroflexes
  - Breathy-voiced Cs
  - Echo words
  - No inf prexes
  - SOV order
  - Non-NOM expeiences
- But we find exceptions and regional patterns [372]
  - Case for exceptions:
    - Typical SAL: DAT
    - Typical non-SAL: NOM
    - Regional pattern: GEN

- What about intonation?
- Is there a "typical" SAL intonation?

- In fact Féry proposes one model for 4 SALs [112]
  - Repetitive rising contours (RRCs) aligned to phrase edges
  - No effect of prominence (no pitch accents)
- But are there exceptions / regional patterns?
- Goals:
  - Propose shared intonational transcription for SALs
  - Highlight variation from the basic pattern
  - Search for regional patterns

METHODS

- Comparative work
- Tests applicability of a single model on multiple SALs [315]
- Expands B-ToBI conventions [603/14]
- Adds new tier to help build inventory
- Recordings of:
  - North Wind from JIPA [292, 475]
  - Viv, Bng, Bng, Bng, NAND
  - UCLA Archive; Reed College
  - Prosodic Typology II [718, 924, 1373]

INTRASAL TRANSCRIPTION METHOD

What you need:
- Recording of the utterance
- Pitch track
- Landmarks tier: salient L & H points
- Words tier: romanization & stress
- English tier: glosses
- Lastly! Tones tier (above Words)

Starting with the Landmarks Tier is crucial
- Speeds up transcription
- Mitigates unconscious shoeorning in new lgs
- e.g. here we find that H landmarks in Snd line up with predicted stress

EFFECTS OF STRESS

Typical SAL pattern
- Initial L target, marking stress (L*)? Edge (aL or aH)?
- Ambiguous alignment in SALs where stress is fixed initial
- Regional subpattern: effects of stress
- L target can mark stressed & not L-edge in Urd, Hnd
- In Snd, it’s the H target of the RRC that marks stressed α
- Sounds like these are pitch accents, contra Féry

NOT JUST SIMPLE RISE

Typical SAL pattern (or just typical Indo-Aryan?)
- Simple L* on stress, Ha marks R-edge
- Major subpatterns: complex pitch accents
- L*H: H target appears on 2nd α in many SALs
- Less common: LH* in Snd, HL* in Urd

EFFECTS OF LENGTH

- Data suggests an effect of V length in Tlg
- APs generally end in Ha (after L*) or La (after L*H)
- La → HAs when a long V is near AP-R-edge
- Added H attracted to V length?

SUMMARY

- So… is there a typical SAL intonation?
  - In some ways, yes:
    - RRCs based on sequences of L–H
    - One target is arguably sensitive to stress
  - But there are major systematic variations:
    - Whether stress can attract T* away from AP’s L-edge
    - Whether the H aligns after on, or before stress
    - Whether there are 2, 3, or 4 tones in an AP
    - Whether vowel length plays a role
    - Many of these patterns are regional
      - Simpler APs as one moves north and east
      - Earlier H alignment as one moves north and west

FURTHER QUESTIONS

- How variable are these stress & length effects?
- How specific are these patterns to individual people or styles, rather than languages?
- Currently transcribing non-JIPA recordings of more SALs: Guj, Kn, Mrt
- Plan to compare with SALs w/ lexical tone: Pn, Sy
  - At the moment: words in isolation
  - North Wind recordings to come

REFERENCES

Bhaskaran, Peri; Kay, Arpitha. 2014. Telugu. ARK. Oxford UP.