MM^{A} MCRiPaP 2017

Latvian Language Institute of the University of Latvia The 4th International Scientific Conference

CONTEMPORARY RESEARCH IN PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY: METHODS, ASPECTS AND PROBLEMS

May 11-12, 2017

Registration form

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Title of paper	Realization of /t/ in Jutlandic dialects of Danish

Abstract (from 250 to 500 words):

Danish /t/ is an aspirated alveolar stop, and it is a well-known fact that the aspiration is typically realized as affrication in Standard Danish (e.g. Basbøll 2005: 60). An overt feature of the traditional dialect of Northern Jutland is the tendency to use a phonetic variant of /t/ sometimes called the 'dry t', realized with noiseless aspiration instead of affrication. 'Dry t' is typically realized with dental place of articulation, and significantly shorter VOT than Standard Danish /t/. While well-known to speakers of Danish, this phenomenon has not been investigated systematically before. When investigating the features, I found that 'dry t' – or at least a lower degree of noisy affrication and shorter VOT than in Standard Danish – is found to some extent in all the major traditional dialect areas of the Jutland peninsula. I also found systematic variation in /t/ realization from dialect area to dialect area, in spite of the peninsula being a relatively small geographic area.

The study furthermore found an interesting association between degree of frication, VOT, and dialect area. Fully affricated /t/ was practically never found in Northern Jutlandic. It was found in Northwestern and Northeastern dialects only in marked tokens with very long VOTs, with dry *t* being the norm. There was a more even distribution in the Central dialects, though with a tendency towards affricated realization. In the Southern dialect, dry *t* is found only with short VOT in unstressed syllables, with affricated or highly noisy /t/ otherwise being the norm. In short, there is a continuum of interplay between VOT and affrication in /t/ realization, so that in Northern Jutland, even low levels of

noisy aspiration is associated with high VOT, while in Southern Jutland, even affrication proper is not associated with high VOT.

The data for the study comes from the Peter Skautrup Centre for Jutlandic Dialect Research at Aarhus University, which has a very large corpus of recordings of traditional Jutlandic dialects (Andersen 1981). These recordings have mostly been used for lexicographic research (Hansen 2008), and not for phonetic research. This partly has to do with the age, and at times lacklustre quality, of the recordings. The quality issue was not consequential for the current study, but probably makes some forms of phonetic research inadvisable. For the current study, I used recordings of 3 speakers from each of the 6 major dialect areas of Jutland. The recordings were made between 1975-1991, and were all of reasonable quality. /t/ tokens in simple onset position were analysed in Praat (Boersma & Weenink 2016).

References

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