

Diastratic Particularities of Speech Intonation used in Focsani

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ABSTRACT

Starting from the observation that *interrogative intonation* occupies a privileged place in studies of intonation, since it allows notification of language functionality at the syntactic and prosody level, often in the absence of other grammatical marks (depending on the specifics of each national language)¹, we focused the research in this study, on the analysis of diastratic differences in interrogative intonation manifested in the language varieties spoken in the city of Focșani.

KEYWORDS: *intonation, acoustic features, diastratic variations*

If we talk about consistency of written literary language, the spoken literary language is impregnated with numerous diatopic and individual features (see TURCULEȚ 1999: 147-148), circumscribed to the distinction *academic version* vs. *familiar version* (IORDAN 1956: 22-23), based on the difference between the *written language* (the language of the distance) vs. *spoken language* (the language of the proximity)² generated by the used code - graphic or phonic. Standard pronunciation of Romanian literature is the "ideal" model which translates into as many individual variations as the result of interference of various factors: the speaker's regional origin, socio-professional status, the cultural level, the concrete communication situation in which the act of speech takes place etc.

In the analysis of segmental features, sociophonology reached a peak during the last decades of the last century mainly by W. Labov's³ research on English in New York. The phonological differences found among the lower social strata, middle and top of society, emphasized the unstable linguistic behavior of the medium level, which in their tendency to mimic the speaking of the upper class, create hypercorrect forms which may play a role in the evolution of language. Prosodic⁴ features field (suprasegmental): accent, intonation (in the broad sense, including, besides the fundamental tone movement - the "speech melody" - changes in duration and intensity), the rhythm, the flow of speech, the "color" of the vowel was still less studied. A. Cruttenden (1986: 134-137) devotes only three pages of comparative research of intonation as "style, class and gender," noting the small quantity of reliable information in this area. A breakthrough in the study of prosodic features was brought by phonostilistics (French), which includes in its field fonostilistic features reflecting social variables of the speaker, for example, among the "specific acoustic features of Parisian popular accent" are also included a high frequency of insistency accents, some intonation models, melodic distances greater than the standard French (Léon 1995: 203-205). Based on data collected in the project *Atlas multimédia prosodique de l'espace roman* (AMPER) some socio-prosody⁵ studies were also made.

Starting from the theoretical premise that linguistic variation is a cause of social affiliation of the speakers and from the observation of correlation between the linguistic behavior of subjects' at segmental level (see below) and their cultural and socio-professional status, we will try to determine differences and sociolinguistic correlations and the prosody level.

Research Methodology

The data used in this communication were selected from entries made in the city of Focsani by A. Turculeț for multimedia Atlas Romanian prosody (AMPRom) made of three corpora: answers to the fixed questionnaire used for both AMPER-ROM [ANIA] and for AMPRom, answers to the AMPRom

questionnaire, and a small corpus of dialogues and conversations between investigator and informers or between informants.

For our study we retained three neutral interrogative type SVO (subject-verb-object) without syntagmatic development, that were produced both in the affirmative and negative versions, so that there is representation for all the emphasis in the final the statement – oxytonee : *twki* (*The wife sees a captain?*) paroxytonee: *kwti* (*A captain sees the wife?*) and proparoxytone: *twpi* (*The wife sees the bird?*).

The material recorded in Focsani seemed to be suitable for a sociolinguistic investigation, since there were interviewed a larger number of informants: 3 men and 4 women, mainly with different socio-cultural and professional situation.

There are indicated the main data of our informants:

- ✓ 9A31 (B.A.), 32-years-old, 10 classes (2 classes with tailoring profile), worked as a saleswoman, is now the nurse in the boarding school - Technical College "Valeriu D. Cotea".
- ✓ 9A32 (N.D.), 34-years-old middle school in Focsani, Buzau mechanic school, Alba Iulia army in the gendarmerie, working for 16 years on construction sites in the city and its surroundings and a car service shop;
- ✓ 9A33 (G.G.), 35-years-old, caretaker at the school "Unirea", 10 classes, moved Focsani in 1996 from the village Rădulești, village county Vânători (15 km away from Focsani)
- ✓ 9A35 (P.M.), wife of informant 9A38, 46 -years-old, post-secondary economic studies, officer at CEC bank;
- ✓ 9A36 (P.V.D.), 51-years-old, professor of physical education ("gymnastics language ") of school "Unirea", university bachelor studies and master the "Communication and the media in sport" in Bucharest. For several years did local radio, has a *chat* on the Internet, talking "alone one hour"
- ✓ 9A37 (S.A.), 44-years-old, a chemistry professor and assistant director of the school "Unirea" has bachelor degree from the faculty in Bucharest;
- ✓ 9A38 (P.C.) 46-years-old, middle school and high school in Focsani, plus a post-high school (mechanical instructor) in Adjud, was the driver (tractor, truck), auto mechanic, is now professor 1st degree of Mechanical and Technical College automotive instructor "Valeriu D. Cotea"

All subjects, except for inf. 9A33, are locals in the city of Focsani.

As socio-professional studies, informants 9A31, 9A32 and 9A33 belong to lower class level, 9A38 and 9A35 of the medium level, and 9A36 and 9A37 of the above level(of intellectuals). Linguistic behavior can overcome socio-professional status: inf. 9A33, and especially 9A31 perform at the level of the middle class, and inf. 9A35 reaches the level of 9A36 and 9A37, which are intellectuals. Factors determining such changes are social and / or individual: age closer to finishing school (inf. 9A31), moving to the city (inf. 9A33: "... we emancipate, we cultivate, too, ... do not know how and you say ... not even to stay at their level. If one goes back to the city then one should accommodate with life in the city "), work-related contacts and work place (with teachers and students higher prestigious national colleges: inf. 9A31, 9A33, office work (inf. 9A35) or all kinds of clients (inf. 9A38), education and personal inclinations (inf. 9A35: "I had good teachers at school and I even enjoyed that, initially I wanted [to go] on with the study of languages "inf. 9A36: specialization and temporary work in the media).

Subjects 9A36 and 9A37 are using literary language, both in the questionnaire and in open corpus. Speaking, they have small deviations from the rules of literary delivery. The other five subjects speak the local dialect-influenced in varying degrees by the literary language. Located at the southern extremity of the Moldavian area of the subdialects, the local dialect features combines Wallachian and Moldavian. Informant 9A34 believes that local speech is "a sort of mixture," but "more Wallachian than Moldavian, Moldavian side [is] from the Adjud up." Indeed, the most obvious feature is the closure of Moldovan unaccented final vowels -*ă* and -*e*, present in order of frequency, at the inf. 9A32 (*durează ani di zili*, this inf. shows sometimes even the closed *ă* unstressed from *pasărea*), 9A33, 9A31, 9A38, 9A35 and sporadic (in free conversations) also for the inf. 9A36, 9A37, more common for the first five speakers is the closing the 2 *e*-s or only the first *e* in the final sequence like unstressed *fratile*, *fratili*, frequent closure

in Wallachia, too. Wallachian peculiarities (taken up by literary language, too) are more numerous: affricates *č*, *ǧ* (Moldovan fricatives occur sporadically for inf. 9A32); keeping palatalize consonants *s*, *z*, *ș*, *j*, *ț* (examples of hardening, especially by losing asyllabic *-i* for inf. 9A32, 9A33, 9A31, 9A38; inf. 9A31 presents a hypercorrect form *cum se facă*) diphthongize by anticipation (*(poi)mîine*) (inf. 9A31 has hypercorrect form *poimîne*) short form of vb . to be pers.3 (*ie/e/i*) vs. Moldavian . *îi*; a form of the aux for the perfect tense(*perf.comp*)vs. Moldavian . *o*, interjections *aoleo*, *aoileo*. Wallachian unlitary forms: prep. *pă* (present at inf. 9A31-9A35 and 9A38, instead the following are present *de/di*, inf. 9A38 has a contraction form: *d-asta*), and saying *a* in a back position drift. The end in the *pasăreă* usually occurs for inf. 9A31 (sometimes almost *pasăra*), the same for inf. 9A37, and the inf. 9A36 shows a slight palatalization of the whistling consonants (types *ș̣*, *j̣*), due probably to more intense contacts with intellectuals in the capital, pronouns *aia*, *alaltu*, *astea*, *ăla*.

Because of the tendency to keep *-e*, the subjects, especially inf. 9A31, 9A33, 9A37, often avoids syneresis: *vede-un căpitan*, using the form influenced by the written language: *vede un căpitan*. The *e- is kept in* neologisms, extending sometimes to old words: *e*, *el* (inf. 9A33, 9A35). Also a hypercorrection (by avoiding traditional utterance of closed *e* and diphthongized to *ie*:for the inf. 9A31 occurs, rarely, even *ielegant*), which tends to generalize, is keeping the *e*-in neologisms as *elegant* with a height alteration of the vowel, which is open with a the central tone or even substituted with *ă* (especially for inf. 9A36) and the second *e* is frequently open through assimilation.

1. Acoustic Analysis

For data processing work we followed the methodology AMPER, acoustic analysis was performed using the program of signal handling PRAAT and acoustic analysis routines (based on Matlab program) developed by Florin Beldianu. With the assistance of the program, PRAAT text files were obtained, offering for each vowel of the statement, information on duration, intensity / maximum sound energy and fundamental frequency (F0) measured at three different points. Text files were then run with routines developed by Florin Beldianu to generate *text 0* calculated as the average of the F0 for each vowel from at least 3 repetitions of each statement. Based on *texts 0*, using the same Matlab routine, there were obtained graphics for F0 stylized contours depending on laryngeal frequency average (Flm) and histograms show the duration of each vowel in a statement.

Melodic pattern (dash curve F0) of a total interrogative assertion has two main points: the tonal peak of first stressed vowel in the statement and the type of final contour(consisting of the last stressed syllable in the statement, along with syllables / syllables that follow until the end)⁶. Depending on the fluency of tone, contour final is driven **ascending** with phonetic variants determined by the last stressed word of the statement (a. oxytone or b. non-oxytone).

1.1. Final oxytone

Ascending contour of the statements with final oxytone has variations depending on the educational profile of the informants: thus distinguish informants with higher education studies level (9A36 and 9A37) and the informant 9A35 also has an ascending contour on the last syllable pronounced as a whole:

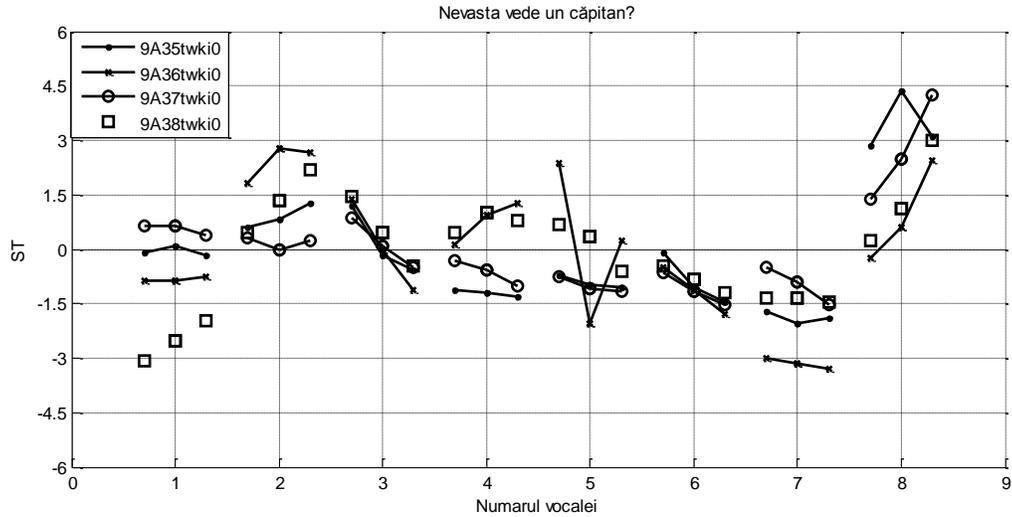


Fig.1 *Nevasta vede un căpitan?*
Higher education studies Informants: 9A36 and 9A37 + college: 9A35 and 9A38)

while for the informants 9A31 - 9A33 the final rising tone is followed by a slight convex tilt on the last part of the syllable:

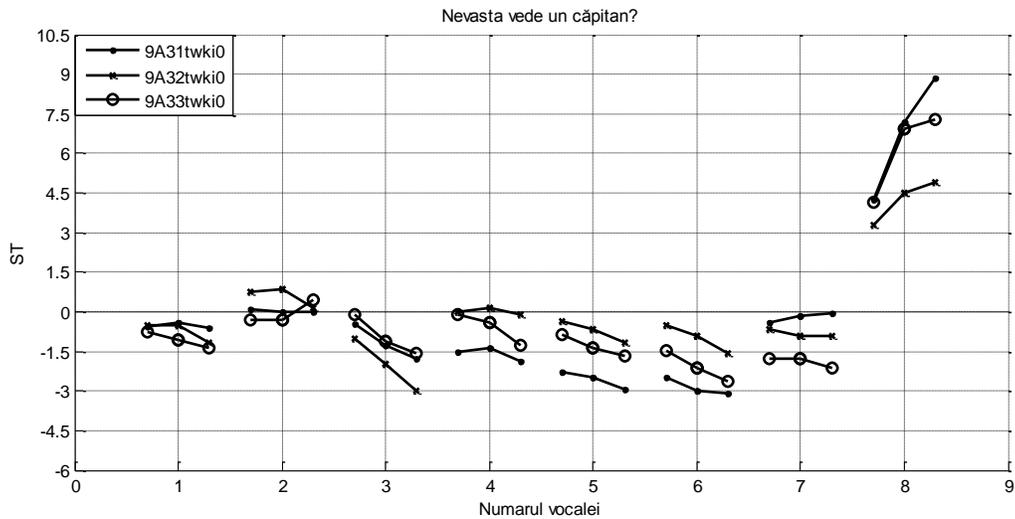


Fig.2 *Nevasta vede un căpitan?* (Secondary studies Informants)

Note that individual variations:

- (1) Final contour for informant 9A35 realizes a high circumflex ascending-descending stress;
- (2) Tonal extension of the final stress is much higher for speakers with college studies approx. 9 sT (9A31), 7.5 sT (9A33), 4.8 sT (9A32), while for the speakers with higher education studies is kept within 2.5 st - 4.9 st.

Differences exist in the total melodic contour: F0 trajectory is close to FLM for informants with elementary studies, tonal stress (with the exception to some extent of the first) are less prominent to the last stress which makes a tonal high bound (*ne-vá-sta véde-un că-pi-tán?*) from other informants, protrusions of stress that is not at the end are above FLM.

1.2. Final un-oxytone

Final contour of the final un-oxytone statements (paroxytone: ne'vasta and proparoxytone: 'pasărea is usually ascending-descending, but along with that comes a different final contour with ascending tone on the post tonic vowel/ s .

Ne'vasta: tone begins its rise on the stressed syllable and is kept rising until the beginning of the following vowel (the final syllable unstressed) which remains at a high level tone in terms of the statement tone, then descends to varying degrees -up to -7 sT to 9A33kwti.

In terms of the average recorded for the informants, we can state that intonation for the informants with elementary education, although within a uniform representation, shows the highest fluctuations of the peak height and minimum of the peak of the final tonal stress. Thus, F0 reaches the highest point at the end of stressed vowel (10.5 sT (433 Hz) above the mean laryngeal frequency (Flm = 205.63 Hz) for the informant 9A31 in *kwti* statements and over 9 sT (371 Hz) in the *twpi* statement compared to the average of other informants, with secondary or higher education studies, located around the value of 273 Hz (= approx. 3 ST). In the case of informant 9A33 after F0 rise on stressed sequence up to 6 sT (427 Hz), it follows a prolonged descent steep on the post tonic syllable, reaching -7 sT (200 Hz).

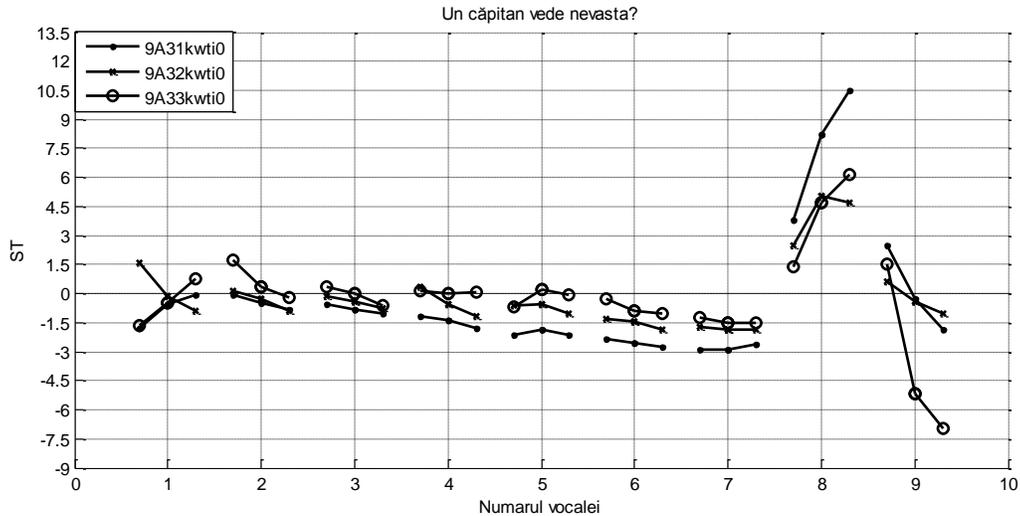


Fig.3 Un căpitan vede nevasta? (Secondary studies informants)

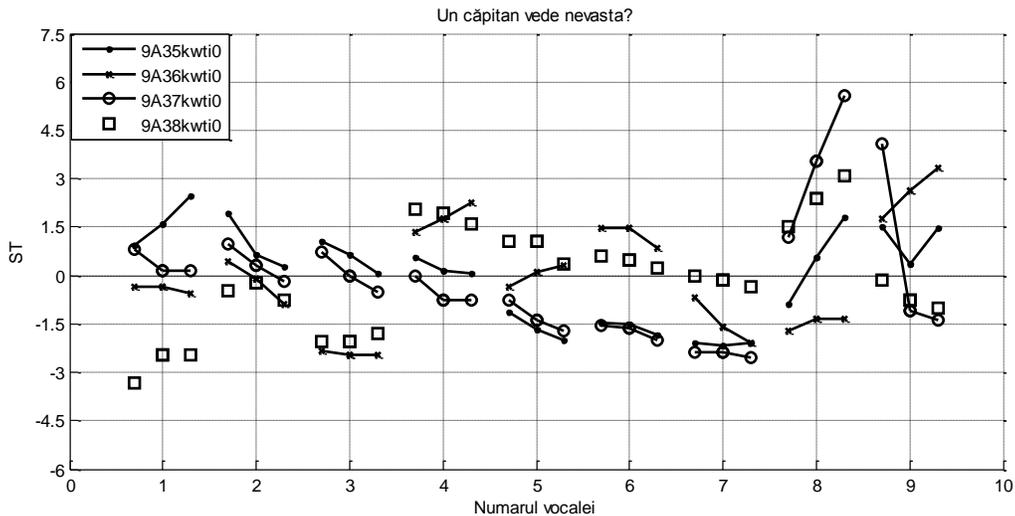


Fig.4 *Un căpitan vede nevasta?*
(higher education studies informants 9A36 and 9A37 + college: 9A35 and 9A38)

Tonal contours of informants with higher education studies (9A36 and 9A37) shows that as in the previous case, a stressed emphasis on tonal stress that is not in an ending position. Typical final contour, *ascending* (for the tonic syllable) - *descending* (on the final syllable) is that of the inf. 9A37, while inf. 9A36 shows the contour in only one of the repetitions (kwti 1) but a different contour in the other two: the tone remains almost flat, slightly descending on the stressed syllable and rising (3.5 sT) on the final post tonic syllable. The second contour demonstrates the emphasis on the final word of the assertion: *nevasta*.

For the inf. 9A35, the tone has a descending-ascending motion on the post tonic syllable.

The total interrogatives with *proparoxytone ending* (*păsărea*) provides to the tone a greater possibility of motion on the final two post tonic syllables.

The typical ascending-descending final contour appears in an uniform form for the inf. 9A31-9A33: the rise of the tonic syllable ends with a slight tilt, and the fall itself takes place on post tonic syllables; finally, the tone can recover through a slight lift. In pre-final contour, only the first tonal accent is emphasized to somewhat extend more pronounced (especially for inf. 9A33).

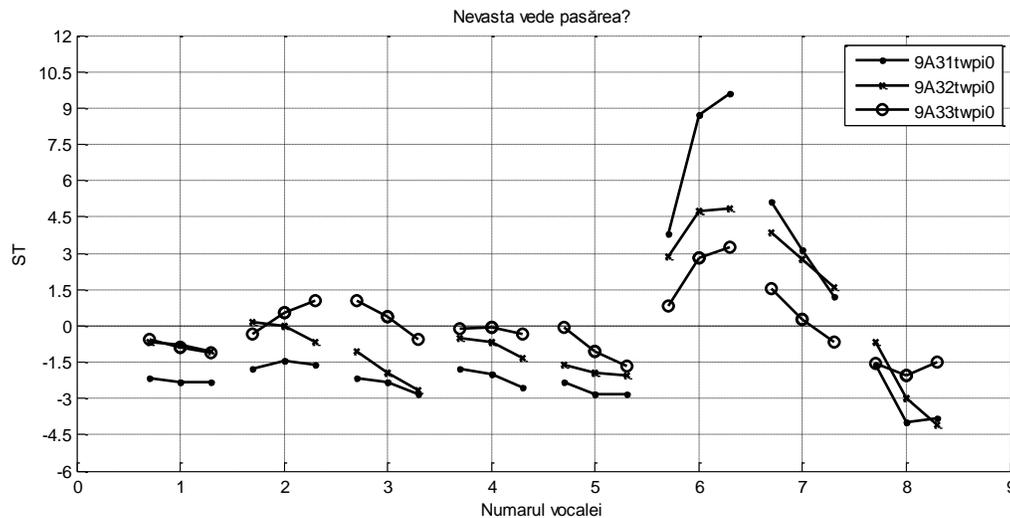


Fig.5 *Nevasta vede pasărea?* (Secondary education informants)

For the informants with higher and college studies, the movement of the tone is more varied in the pre-final section, the tonal peaks are more pronounced on the subject and verb, and the final melodic contour has two variants:

- (1) an ascending-descending one, present for inf. 9A38, 9A35 in two repetitions, for the inf. 9A36 in a repetition (the rise began on the stressed syllable continued with a bound at the beginning of the first post tonic syllable) and for inf. 9A37 in all repetitions (the same bound at the beginning of the penultimate vowel);
- (2) another one with flat, slightly descending F0 on the stressed syllable and on the next syllable, then ascending on the last syllable for inf. 9A38 in a repetition (the penultimate ascent easy start) and inf. 9A36 in two repetitions.

If the first variant is the normal one for the neutral question, the latter with raising the tone on the final unstressed syllable, is marked by emphasis on the last word: *pasărea*.

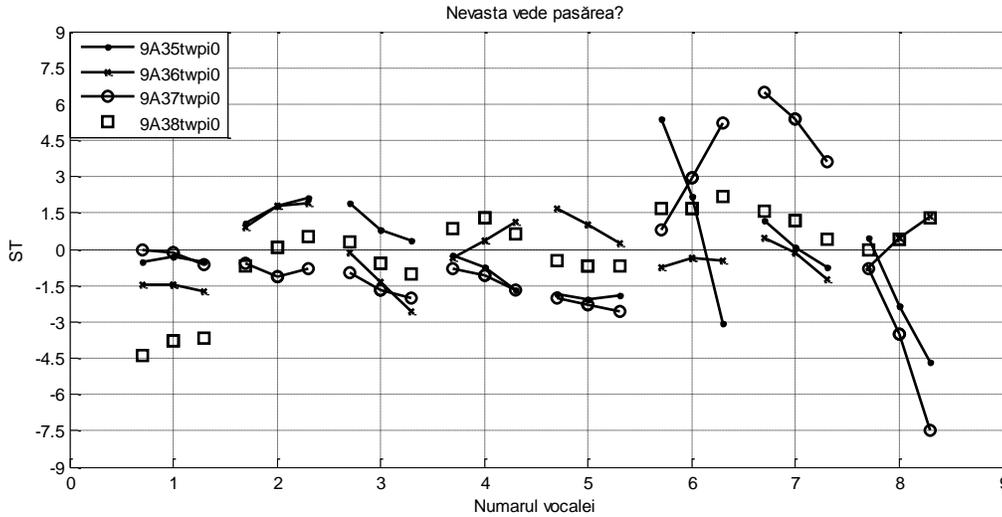
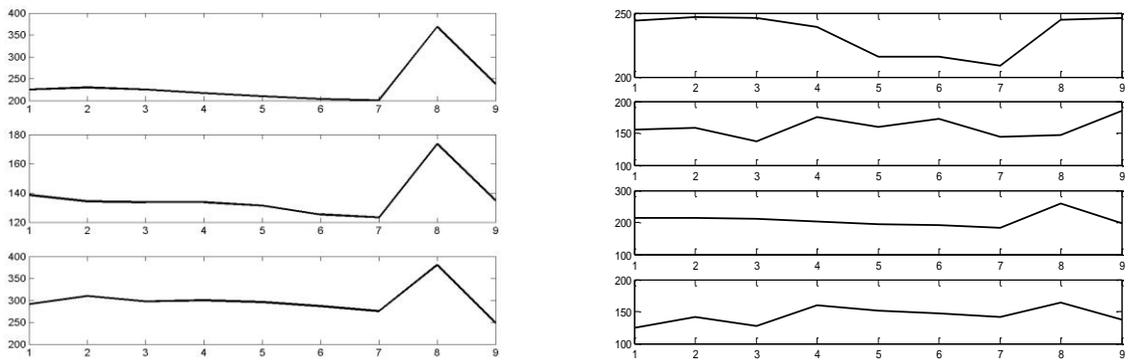


Fig. 6 *Nevasta vede pasărea?*
 (Higher education studies Informants: 9A36 and 9A37 + college: 9A35 and 9A38)

2. Melodic contours

Intonation contours introduced below are schematic representations (models) of the fundamental frequency contour area (average of three repetitions).



9A31kwti vs. 9A32kwti vs. 9A33kwti

9A35kwti0 vs. 9A36kwti0 vs. 9A37kwti0 vs. 9A38kwti0

Fig. 8 *Un căpitan vede nevasta? (kwti)*

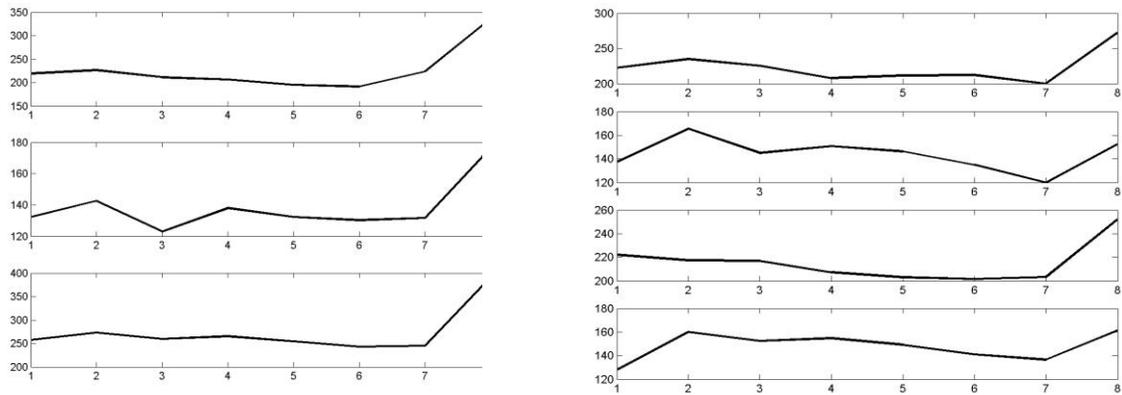
(on the left, secondary studies informants, on the right, college and higher education studies studies)

For the informants with secondary education studies the tonal (and nuclear) stress is the vowel 8 (stressed vowel from the last word of the assertion: *nevásta*) representing the intonation peak of the statement ; CT is ascending-descending.

For the informants with higher education studies and college education studies there is observed the intonation contour for the speaker 9A37 focusing on V8, the same as the speakers with secondary education studies, a similar intonation contour is present for the informant 9A38, with the difference that realizes more tonal stress: a secondary prominence on V2 (*un căpitan*), V4 stress with the same frequency as the emphasis on V8. CT is for the both speakers ascending-descending.

The speakers 9A35 and 9A36 have different intonation contour between them, but also different to the rest of the informants: 9A35 present syntagmatic limits between SN and SV marked by slow descent of F0 on the first 4 vowels, the sharply descend in the stressed vowel form the verb (V5) which forms a low

plateau with the last vowel of SV and the unstressed vowel of the paroxytone word which concludes the statement, CT is type tensed ascendant. 9A36 has accents on V4 and V6; F0 descends on pre-tonic vowel and forms a low plateau with stressed vowel; CT is ascending on the post-tonic vowel.



9A31twki0 vs. 9A32twki0 vs. 9A33twki0

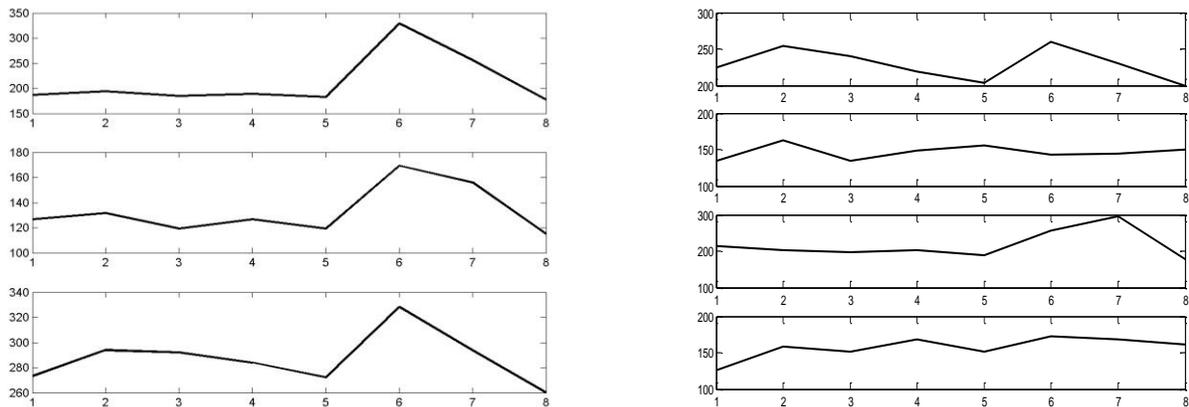
9A35twki0 vs. 9A36twki0 vs. 9A37twki0 vs. 9A38twki0

Fig. 9 *Nevasta vede un căpitan? (twki)*

(on the left, secondary studies informants, on the right, college and higher education studies studies)

In the assertion with oxytone ending (Fig. 9) there are not identified socio-prosody differences, at most there can be a grouping of intonation contours according to *gender* variable: for the informants 9A31, 9A33, 9A35, 9A37 (female) the F0 has an uniform route, slightly descending from the first vowel to atonic vowel (V7) preceding the final stressed vowel, CT is raising. Male informants (9A32, 9A36 and 9A38) have the same ascending CT, but F0 still has an emphasis on the tonic vowel (V2) of the SN which has the syntactic function of the subject, then it is descending on the on post-tonic vowel, ascending on the first vowel of the verb maintaining on a high plateau and the second vowel of the verb from which it descends slowly to V7 to ascend on the stressed ending of the assertion.

Uniform intonation contours have speakers with elementary studies and in the statement with paroxytone ending: the emphasis is on V6 (stressed vowel from the last word of the statement), we see a tonal stress on V2 and a secondary stress of the post-tonic vowel for 9A32; CT is ascending-descending.



9A31twpi0 vs. 9A32twpi0 vs. 9A33twpi0

9A35twpi0 vs. 9A36twpi0 vs. 9A37twpi0 vs. 9A38twpi0

Fig. 10 *Nevasta vede pasărea? (twpi)*

(on the left, secondary studies informants, on the right, college and higher education studies studies)

9A35: stress on V2 (*nevásta*), a secondary emphasis on post-tonic vowel SN, stress on V6 (tonic vowel of proparoxytone), ascending-descending CT high: F0 down to V5 (the last vowel of the verb), begins to rise until it descends at the end of the statement on the post-tonic vowel, making a high bridge with the last unstressed vowel.

9A36: tonal stress on V2 and V5 (the last vowel of the verb?) CT descending-ascending;

9A37: intonation contour similar to that of informants with secondary education studies, the difference is on stress on the post-tonic vowel (V7) the final word;

9A38: tonal stress on V2, V4 and V6 (lexical accents); CT slightly ascending-descending.

3. Duration analysis

In an absolute way, the duration reflects the speed of elocution / speech / broadcasting articulated by a speaker. Analyzed utterances are temporally structured of stressed vowel alternation (longer duration) with unstressed vowels (shorter duration). The research shows that vowels bearing lexical stress of the stressed unit are longer than the atonic ones.

The following tables present the duration (in milliseconds) of the statement *Nevasta vede pasărea* calculated as the average of the three repetitions for the seven informants in the city of Focsani:

	e	'a	a	'e	e	'a	ă	ea			e	'a	a	'e	e	'a	ă	ea
9A31	109	174	94	124	87	116	54	67		9A35	67	101	86	77	60	92	71	88
9A32	64	104	71	84	50	107	48	93		9A36	60	89	76	70	44	87	53	89
9A33	113	114	101	127	88	131	97	142		9A37	57	85	59	75	74	94	47	89
										9A38	41	79	41	52	34	84	31	72
Media	95,3	130,7	88,7	111,7	75	118	66,3	100,7		Media	56,3	88,5	65,5	68,5	53	89,3	50,5	84,5

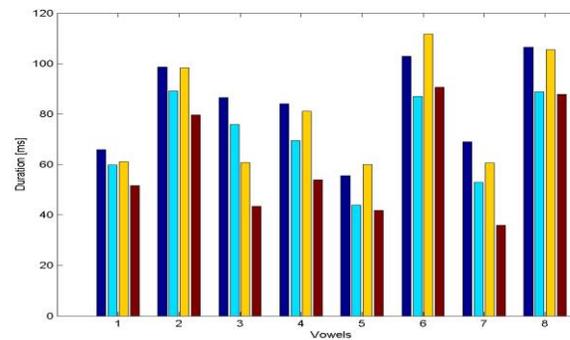
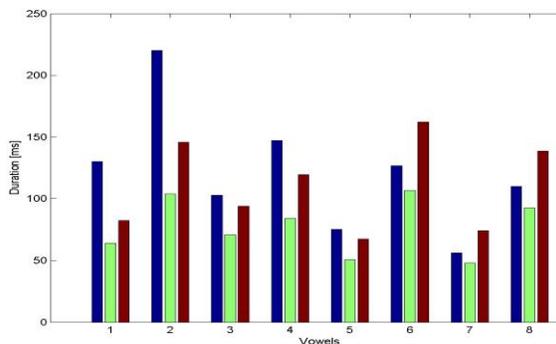
Informants with secondary studies

Informants with higher education studies and college studies

Tabel 1. *Nevasta vede 'pasărea? (twpi)*

The data presented allow us to formulate the following general observations:

- (1) The average duration of vowels for informants with secondary education studies (left) is higher than the average duration of vowels for informants with higher and secondary studies(right).
- (2) The final unstressed vowel average duration (= diphthong *ea*) (V8 = 100.7 ms) is higher for the general education studies speakers s that of those with higher education studies (84.5 ms).
- (3) The highest average duration is recorded for the last stressed vowel (V6), followed by the first stressed vowel of the statement⁷, marking the two extreme peaks of the total intonational contour.
- (4) The less timeduration is recorded the semi-closed vowel *ă* from *pasărea* (V7).



9A31twpi0 vs. 9A32twpi0 vs. 9A33twpi0

9A35twpi0 vs. 9A36twpi0 vs. 9A37twpi0 vs. 9A38twpi0

Fig. 11 *Nevasta vede pasărea?*

(on the left, secondary studies informants, on the right, college and higher education studies studies)

Vowel duration also varies, depending on the position it occupies in the statement. Thus, the duration of the two vowels *a* of the *ne'vasta* have an average higher in the final part of the sentence than in initial position. The statement type *kwti*: 126.7 ms and 117.3 ms for speakers with general education, 99.3 ms and respectively 98.3 ms for speakers with higher education studies and college studies, compared with type *twpi* statement: 130.7 ms (we recall the utterance with emphasis for the informant 9A31, hence artificially higher value for the average of the stressed vowel *a* from *ne'vasta*) and 88.7 ms for users with general education, respectively 88.5 ms and 65.5 ms for speakers with higher education studies and media. Combined with the final position in the sentence, the stress becomes the determining factor of the final stressed vowel's duration (in table 3, the average is 112.3 ms for V8, respectively 105.3).

	u	ă	i	'a	'e	e	e	'a	a
9A31	91	65	41	135	109	80	73	119	128
9A32	76	52	38	99	90	61	73	102	59
9A33	94	69	50	135	129	84	84	159	165
Medie	87,0	62,0	43,0	123,0	109,3	75,0	76,7	126,7	117,3
9A35	82	62	50	118	97	70	71	138	128
9A36	67	43	29	73	62	41	54	78	79
9A37	63	49	37	106	92	60	61	111	119
9A38	53	42	18	72	46	45	48	70	67
Medie	66,3	49,0	33,5	92,3	74,3	54,0	58,5	99,3	98,3

Tabel 2. *Un căpitan vede nevasta? (kwti)*

	e	'a	a	'e	iu	ă	i	'a
9A31	89	134	90	116	104	63	35	92
9A32	90	104	72	93	78	60	36	99
9A33	120	132	108	128	100	80	87	146
Medie	99,7	123,3	90,0	112,3	94,0	67,7	52,7	112,3
9A35	64	98	81	88	62	61	33	124
9A36	61	85	57	59	124	45	29	102
9A37	55	84	56	79	105	37	33	117
9A38	60	60	38	55	56	37	23	78
Medie	60,0	81,8	58,0	70,3	86,8	45,0	29,5	105,3

Tabel 3. *Nevasta vede un căpitan? (twki)*

Conclusions

It seems that the strict correlation between socio-professional status and cultural level of the speakers and some features / performance of their language is more difficult to accomplish in the prosodic features rather than the segmental features⁸. There were not found *prosodemes* to characterize absolutely or thought different frequency specific socio-cultural layers, as it was possible in the phonetic features / phonological. Essential prosodic similarities between Moldovan and Wallachian dialects on the one hand, and between them and the literary language, on the other hand, therefore are also difficult to form specific intonation patterns to certain social categories.

We can however reveal some differences more general between informants that seem to correlate with their socio-professional status and cultural:

- (1) Speakers with university degrees and exercising the profession of educators and even those with post-secondary education have greater control over their own intonation and are more appropriate to an prosody inquiry regarding neutral intonation. They reach a higher degree of formalization, setting a certain neutral contour for every way that it is maintained during the investigation⁹. All stressed units are raised, generally by their tonal accents.
- (2) Speakers with secondary education and vocational have greater involvement in formulating questions, expressing themselves by a slightly convex slope (descending) after reaching the tonal peak on the final stressed vowel¹⁰.

In the same way should be interpreted and the achievement of a circumflex accent on the final stressed syllable of the informant 9A35. Speaker's attention is focused on expressing the rising final contour

which represents the focus of the nuclear states: prefinal tonal accents are dimmed (except for the first tonal accent), but the final ascension has a wide tonal extension (especially for the female informants 9A31 and 9A33).

- (3) In a somewhat surprising way, the informant 9A36 (highly educated) and informant 9A38 (with post-secondary studies, but also working as a teacher) made the total interrogatives with neoxytone ending (*ne'vasta*, *'pasărea*) with the neutral model: ascending-descending and also with the ascending model with the unstressed ending syllables specific to emphatic interrogatives (by contrast or by emotions) on the last word of the statement. It seems that there is a tendency to speakers representing higher socio-cultural class (or also the average class) to extend this emphatic model to achieve neutral interrogatives with neoxytone ending.

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NOTES:

- ¹ See Laurenția Dascălu, *Theoretical Investigation of Intonation* in LR, XXXIII (1984), no. 2, p. 91
- ² Peter Koch, Wulf Oesterreicher, *Gesprochene Sprache in der Romania: Französisch, Italienisch, Spanisch*, Tübingen, 1990, apud TURCULEȚ 1999, p. 133-134.
- ³ W. Labov, *The Social Stratification of English in New York*, Philadelphia, 1972.
- ⁴ The importance of these features to characterize the way of talking has been recognized by the term intuitive speaking accent (s) for particular varieties of a language.
- ⁵ See *Bibliografia* published on site AMPER: <http://w3.u-grenoble3.fr/dialecto/AMPER/pub.htm>.
- ⁶ The term *final contour* was used in phonological description of Romanian intonation by F.B. Agard (1958) and E. Vasiliu (1965). With the agreement, primarily phonetic, from the present research was used by L. Dascalu-Jinga (2001, p. 33, 2005, p. 914) and in the research conducted within and based on AMPER-ROM (eg, Turculeț et. alii, 2008 p. 36).
- ⁷ Stressed vowel duration in *ne'vasta* is ignored for the female informant 9A31 - 174 ms - which is assigned to an emphatic utterance.
- ⁸ It is possible that a thorough analysis of prosodic data recorded in Focsani, including other models than the interrogative neutral to relativize this statement.
- ⁹ Inf. 9A36 even noted down the order (*asertive, interogative, asertive negative, interogative negative*) to say the statements.
- ¹⁰ This ascending modulation in the end recalls the implication intonation mentioned by P. Delattre (1966, p. 3) in those „10 French fundament intonations”.

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