

Phonetics Colloquium at Uds

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**Masha Razguliaeva & Roland Meyer (Berlin)**

**Prosody of Russian and Polish polar questions in the light of parsed telephone corpora**

Both in Russian and in Polish, polar (or yes/no-) questions can be found in two forms: 1) marked by a special particle (*czy* in Polish, *li* + verb fronting in Russian); 2) having the declarative word order and marked by a special intonational pattern. In Russian, the latter involves a characteristic rising nuclear pitch accent (Esipova, 2025; Meyer & Mleinek, 2006; Rathcke, 2006). The placement of this accent affects the interpretation of the PQ (Esipova, 2025; Esipova & Romero, 2023; Mehlig, 1990; Meyer & Mleinek, 2006; Munteanu & Kiss, 2025). The accent placement on the inflected verb yields a "neutral" interpretation of simply inquiring whether a proposition is true. If the accent falls on another constituent, additional meanings associated with constituent or sentence-level focus arise. In Polish, yes/no-questions are generally marked by a final rise (Mikoś 1976; Wagner 2008; Żygis et al. 2017), but interesting issues arise especially for *czy*-questions, which are compatible with inner as well as outer negation (Meyer 2024, Chirpanlieva 2024). We aim at studying the intonational patterns of Russian and Polish polar questions on naturalistic data. To investigate the interaction between accent form and placement, it is crucial to access both grammatical and prosodic features. We introduce a pipeline for building an annotated corpus from audio recordings of telephone conversations (Strassel et al., 2012). The pipeline includes semi-automatic transcription with WhisperX (Bain et al. 2023), Universal Dependencies–style morphosyntactic and syntactic annotation via Stanza (Qi et al. 2020), semi-automatic annotation of sentence type, and annotation of pitch accents and boundary tones according to the autosegmental-metrical approach (Ladd 2008) in Praat (Boersma & Weenink 2025). The annotation tiers are put together in ANNIS, providing an environment to search for combinations of prosodic and grammatical features, e.g., a rising accent placed on a verb.