

TWO PARAMETERS IN THE PERCEPTION OF SERBO-CROATIAN WORD TONE

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Previous reports by this author have described the realizations of Serbo-Croatian word tones in differing sentence environments (Purcell 1972, 1973). It was found that several patterns of fundamental frequency differences regularly occurred in the accented and first post-accentual vowel, which seemed to differentiate rising and falling tones. It was also reported that differences in the location of the fundamental frequency peak within the accented vowel were observed, which also seemed to differentiate rising and falling tones. In another paper, perceptual data were presented indicating that natives can use such differences in the location of the pitch peak within the accented vowel to discriminate rising and falling tones (Purcell 1976). In the present paper we will present perceptual data comparing two parameters:

1. the location of the pitch peak within the accented vowel and
2. the relationship between the first and last fundamental frequency value within the accented vowel.

Three gradations of peak location were combined with five gradations of start/end ratio in synthetic stimuli. Native listeners' responses were subjected to multiple regression to assess the relative contribution of each parameter to the perception of Serbo-Croatian word tone.

References

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