The Fraenkel 1959 recordings: an unstudied corpus of Hocank

Molly Rosenfeld, Coleen Villegas & Nancy Hall

Acknowledgements

This research was supported by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health under Award Numbers; 8UL1GM118979-02; 8TL4GM118980-02; 8RL5GM118978-02. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.

References


The Fraenkel 1959 recordings: an unstudied corpus of Hocank

SOME PHONOLOGICAL TOPICS

- Dorsey’s Law (copy vowel epenthesis):

  \[ \emptyset \rightarrow V_i/C_{RV} \]

- Controversy: is there a special secondary accent on epenthetic Vs?

  Miner 1979
  [\text{pav} - \text{pav}]
  ‘thin’

  Miner 1992, others
  [\text{pav} - \text{pav}]
  ‘thin’

- Gap: no published phonetic data

THE FRAENKEL CORPUS

- Recorded in Wisconsin Dells, 1959 by Gerd Fraenkel, an associate professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh
- Tapes archived at Indiana University, apparently never analyzed
- Speakers: Chief Daybreak Elias James Smoke, Stella Stacy, Alwin Stacy.
- Sound quality generally consistent, but some tapes appear to be recorded at an accelerated speed
- Handwritten field notes cover most but not all tapes
- Contents of the tapes included:
  - Re-elicited stories (retold based on earlier wax cylinders)
  - Biography of Chief Daybreak Elias James Smoke
  - Linguistic elicitations:
    - Numbers, colors, time expressions, adjectives
    - Minimal Pairs and homonyms
    - Expressions, phrases, and sentences with possessives
    - Tribes and Members, Countries and Names for Nationals
    - Prepositional Phrases

PITCH IN DORSEY’S LAW VS. REGULAR WORDS

In disyllables, it seems like V1 may be higher-pitched in Dorsey’s Law sequences… consistent with Miner’s description of “secondary” accent on the epenthetic vowel.

For Chief Daybreak, monosyllables in isolation have a short rise-fall. Susman and Miner describe only a fall. In the Miner recordings, Nancy Hall and Elica Sue found that a female speaker had only a fall, while a male speaker had a rise-fall. Evidence for a gender difference in pitch alignment?

Other Pitch and Accent Examples

Vowel Qualities

There also may be different pitch patterns in trisyllables depending on which vowel is epenthetic.

Our project

Goals:

- Annotate a linguistically unanalyzed corpus of archival recordings of Hocank (Siouan, aka Winnebago)
- Apply these data to questions in Hocank phonetics and phonology

Some Preliminary Phonetic Analyses

References
