

Hæ? Exploring factors influencing the identification and judgement of two Norwegian dialects.

Alex Mepham & Bronwen G. Evans
a.mepham.16@ucl.ac.uk | bronwen.evans@ucl.ac.uk



INTRODUCTION

• **Familiarity** with a particular dialect affects listeners' ability to identify speakers from that region, and also affects speech processing and comprehension.
• Additionally, **listeners likely map linguistic cues in the speech signal to stereotypes** of what someone sounds like when they are from a specific region (Montgomery & Moore, 2018).

Native Norwegian speakers have exposure to regional dialects from throughout Norway via the media, that differ in acoustic-phonetic variants. But there is **contention** whether intonation (Gooskens, 2005) or phonetic variation (Gooskens & Heeringa, 2006) drives the identification of Norwegian dialects.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Can listeners accurately identify the standard and a regional Norwegian dialect?
2. Does familiarity with each dialect affect identification accuracy?
3. Does the degree of regional variation in the speech signal affect dialect judgements?

METHODOLOGY

Participants

30 native-Norwegian speakers aged 22-60 years ($M=33.0$) living throughout and outside Norway.

Stimuli

• Standard dialect: Standard Eastern Norwegian (Oslo)
Regional dialect: Nord-Trøndersk (Nord-Trøndelag)

Target phonemes: /n, j, /l/. Palatals present in regional but not standard dialect.

Dialect identification task conditions[†]:

Standard: /led/
Regional: /leɣ/

Sentence judgement task conditions[†]:

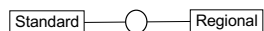
None: /so:la ʃɪnɐr my:ɛ/
Phoneme: /so:la ʃɪnɐr my:ɛ/
Word: /so:la ʃɪnɐr my:ɛ/
Sentence: /so:la ʃɪnɐr my:ɛ/

Procedure

Dialect identification task: 2 x 42 trials
(forced choice of a single word, e.g. *redd*, 'afraid')



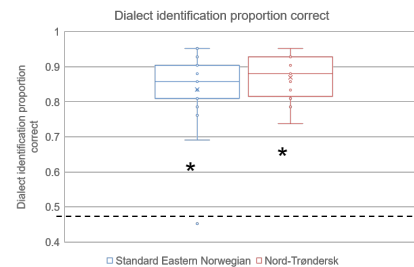
Sentence judgement task: 4 x 20 trials
(sentence ratings, e.g. *Sola skinner mye*. 'The sun shines a lot.')



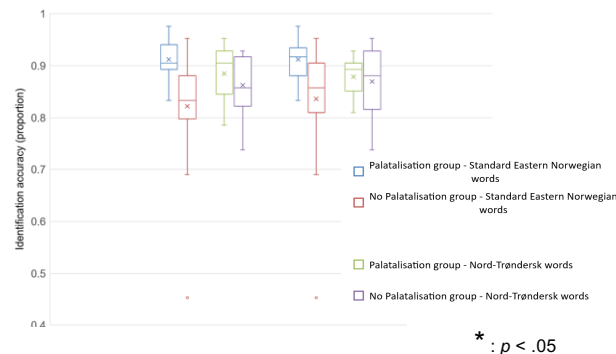
RESULTS: Dialect Identification Task

RQ1: Can listeners identify the standard/regional dialect from a single word when only phonetic variants are manipulated?

A1: Yes: listeners can identify each dialect above chance (dotted line = .5).



RQ2: Is dialect identification mediated by familiarity with the dialects?



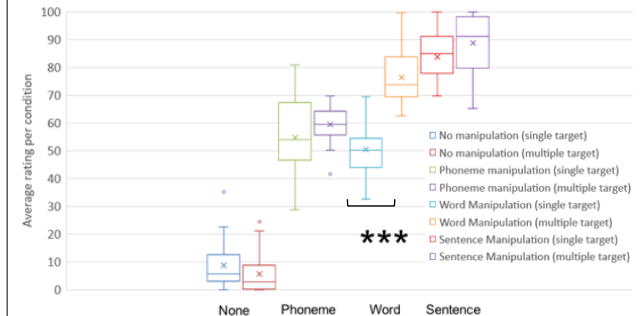
A2: Yes, higher proportion of correct standard dialect identification for listeners where the regional palatalisation variant is present in current residence location and upbringing location. No difference for regional dialect identification or with self-report measures of dialect familiarity.

Why?

• Listeners more familiar with the regional dialect are more aware of variants NOT present in their dialect.

RESULTS: Sentence judgement task

RQ3: Does the degree of regional variation affect judgements?

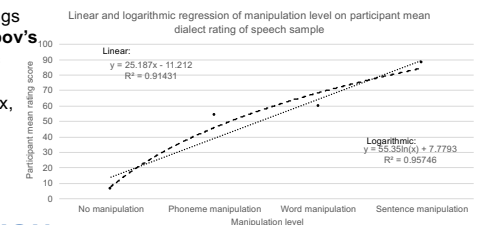


A3: Yes.

• Main effects of manipulation level for all sentences ($p < .05$) and number of regional variants present in sentence (i.e. single vs multiple targets; $p < .05$).

• Main effect of interaction ($p < .001$) driven by difference in regional judgement ratings in Word level manipulation between sentences with single and multiple regional variants present.

Judgement ratings pattern with **Labov's Sociolinguistic Monitor** (c.f. Levon & Fox, 2014).



DISCUSSION

• Listeners can accurately identify the dialect of a speech sample at above chance levels.

• Self-report measures of familiarity did not predict differences in identification accuracy but residence location and upbringing location did. Listeners familiar with the regional dialect are sensitive to variants not present in their native dialect.

• Dialect judgements appear to follow the Sociolinguistic Monitor (Labov et al., 2011): more regional variants lead to higher ratings of regionality.

• Further work should isolate the potential effects of intonation, and whether intonation also fits with predictions of the Sociolinguistic Monitor.

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