

## Interaction between word and sentence accent in Serbo-Croatian

Serbo-Croatian belongs beside Swedish, Norwegian, Lithuanian and Limburgian to a group of pitch accent languages. Traditionally, the lexical accent of standard Serbo-Croatian language was impressionistically described as rising or falling. However, the previous findings of experimental-phonetic investigations on Serbo-Croatian lexical accent (Ivić & Lehiste 1963, 1986; Inkelas & Zec 1988; Smiljanic 2004) suggested that not only "falling" pitch accent types show a rising-falling tone contour, but in some cases also "rising" pitch accent types. Both falling and rising pitch accent types of Serbo-Croatian show as well distinctive nucleus length, which results in additional accent characteristics - shortness and length.

The aim of this dissertation is to investigate both the complex distribution of Serbo-Croatian lexical pitch accent with its phonetic correlates of acoustic parameter fundamental frequency (f<sub>0</sub>) and its tonal pattern. Furthermore, it has to be clarified which tonal pattern phonologically underlies the Serbo-Croatian lexical accent and it remains to be seen if it is a matter of several tones, or one single tone in its different forms. This dissertation will include a phonetic investigation of tone quality as well as its phonological assignment and interaction between syntactic and semantic structures. Additionally, this survey explores not only lexical accent of Serbo-Croatian, but also its interplay with sentence prosodic structures and will cover aspects of production as well as of perception.

In this survey I will examine one dialect of the eastern variety of Serbo-Croatian, Štokavian-Ekavian which I refer to as Serbian. That dialect is spoken in Ruma, a town 60km north-western of Serbian capital, Belgrade, which belongs to the Syrmium dialect, which in turn belongs to the bigger dialect group of Šumadija and Vojvodina.

### References:

- Inkelas, Sh. & Zec, D. (1988). Serbo-Croatian pitch accent. *Language: Journal of the Linguistic Society of America*, 64, 227-248.
- Ivić, P. & Lehiste, I. (1963). Accents in Serbocroatian: An experimental study. *Michigan Slavic Materials*, 4. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
- Ivić, P. & Lehiste, I. (1986). *Word and Sentence Prosody in Serbocroatian*. Cambridge, MA: Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- Smiljanic, R. (2004). *Lexical, Pragmatic, and Positional Effects on Prosody in Two Dialects of Croatian and Serbian. An Acoustic Study*. New York: Routledge.