

## Developing Teaching Material for Danish, Swedish and Norwegian Speech Prosody

*Maria Alm<sup>1</sup>, Åsa Abelin<sup>2</sup>, Jardar Eggesbø Abrahamsen<sup>3</sup>, Egil Albertsen<sup>3</sup>, Jacques Koreman<sup>3</sup>, Oliver Niebuhr<sup>1</sup>, Kerstin Fischer<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> University of Southern Denmark, Sønderborg; <sup>2</sup> Gothenburg University; <sup>3</sup> Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim

We present exemplary teaching material for Scandinavian prosody and especially intonation that we have been working on in two recent projects. Our aim is to familiarize young speakers of Danish, Swedish and Norwegian with the speech melodies of their neighboring languages to diminish the alienation rising from little contact and the immediate reaction to the “strange sound” of the others. The material can also be used for second-language classes and in self-studies.

For the development of the material, we used an online tool for the visualization of intonation (see Fischer et al. 2021), which had also been developed within the project. The tool, which is accessible from different kinds of devices and specialized on analyzing Scandinavian intonation, allows both teachers and language learners to speak into the microphone of their device and see the result immediately. The tool gives the user different options for the visualization, is free to use and allows the user to download the sound and the visualization. We used the tool to create visualizations of the intonation of utterances in the three languages.

At the same time, we examined the tonal workings in the three languages (Alm et al. 2021) and developed exemplary teaching material to illustrate the differences between them using questions as an example. To collect comparable speech material, we formulated a short interview containing different question types. We chose questions because of their important role in encounters, and the interview format because it kept topics and wording as comparable as possible. We then asked young native speakers from each language to use the script to interview each other. These data, which are free to download for everybody interested, were then used to create example presentations of the tonal properties in the three languages. Our teaching material includes suggestions for how to use the tool and to familiarize young Scandinavian speakers with the speech prosody of their neighboring languages.

### References

- Kerstin Fischer, Oliver Niebuhr, Maria Alm, Åsa Abelin & Egil Albertsen (2021): Towards a Prosodic Visualization Tool for Language Learners, 1st International Conference on Tone and Intonation (TAI), December 6-9, 2021, Sønderborg, DK.
- Maria Alm, Jardar Eggesbø Abrahamsen, Åsa Abelin, Egil Albertsen & Jacques Koreman (2021) Parameters of tonal variation in and between three Scandinavian languages, 1st International Conference on Tone and Intonation (TAI), December 6-9, 2021, Sønderborg, DK.

### Tool

<https://nordplus.sonoware.de/>