

Framework of Breton Prosody Typology and Dialectal Variation: Is Prosody a Dialectal Parameter?

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Motivation and Description:

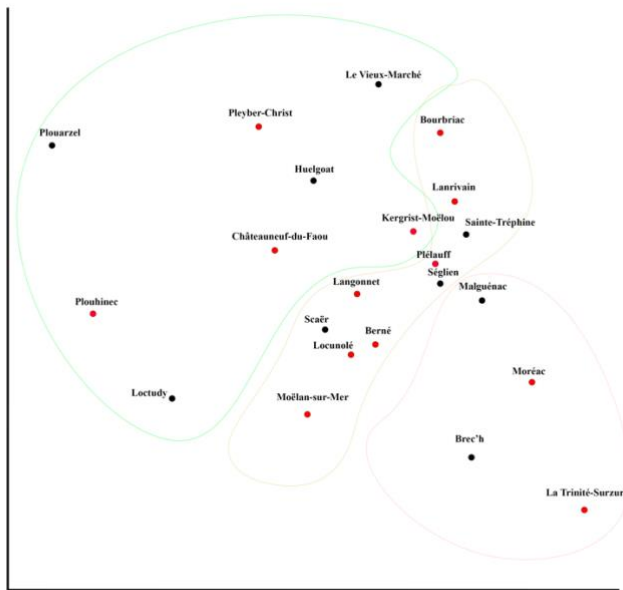
Breton, a Celtic language spoken in Brittany, France, is characterized by significant dialectal variations documented since the mid-18th century. These variations encompass differences in phonology, morphology, lexicon, and syntax. Recent research, drawing from linguistic surveys, indicates a high mutual intelligibility among Grand North-Western dialects, contrasting with a weaker continuum among Grand South-Eastern dialects.

Breton prosody, particularly in Lower Brittany, has been a focus, with studies suggesting accentuation patterns in different zones. However, most research on Breton dialects has centred on stress intensity, with limited exploration of proper intonation and its relationship to informational structure.

Our motivation for this study is twofold: first, to provide a comprehensive description for each dialectal zone (see the map below) utilising *all-new* approaches to Breton prosody (autosegmental-metrical prosody for formal description; cf. Goldsmith 1990; and functionalist-constructivist approach for phonological schematisation; cf. Halliday & Greaves 2008); and second, to conduct a typological comparison between dialects to determine if prosodic differences align with other dialectal variations.

In our corpus, analysing prosody of 22 villages (one participant for each village), we have chosen to exclusively include 'living sentences' extracted from radio broadcasts or personal interviews. We aim to avoid mere translations, which could be influenced by the source language, often French (Kang 2023d). Physical properties of prosody (dB, Hz, milliseconds, etc.) will be measured by using *Praat*.

Doing our description of prosody of various dialects, we observed more than 10 distinctive characteristics of prosody (that we will present some of them below) which could be dialectal parameter helping other speakers to identify corresponding dialects. Hereby, we will present three distinctive characteristics, to show briefly how our analyses will be presented, by schematical cartography:



Placement de l'accent
Vert : avant-dernière ; Rose : dernière ; Beige : mobile

1. Place of 'accent' (stress and pitch) (green: penultima; pink: ultima; brown: free)



Place de l'accent de groupe
Vert : sur le dernier élément du groupe
Rose : mobile

2. Place of accent in syntactic group (green: in the final position of syntactic group; pink: free)



3. Typology of pitch prominence (green: on the prosodic words; pink: on the prosodic phrases and focalised words; blue: “edge-based”, at the pause, at the final position)



Map: analysis points

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