

Jörg Peters

Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg

## Phonetic realization of focus in varieties of Dutch, West Frisian, Low Saxon, and High German

This paper deals with the effects of different kinds of focus and of focus constituent size on the phonetic realization of accentual peaks in declarative sentences in varieties of continental West Germanic. Speakers were drawn from six populations along the coastal line of the Netherlands, covering Zeelandic Dutch, Hollandic Dutch, West Frisian, Dutch Low Saxon, German Low Saxon, and Northern High German. Our findings suggest that focus structure has systematic effects on segmental durations, the scaling and timing of the accentual  $f_0$  gesture, and on the alignment of  $f_0$  targets relative to the beginning of the accented word. However, the difference between neutral focus and corrective focus has more systematic effects than variation of the size of the focused constituents in corrective focus. In addition, speakers from different places were found to adopt different strategies in signalling these focus structures. Speakers of Hollandic Dutch and West Frisian were found to expand the pitch span on the accented word, whereas speakers of Low and High German were found to rescale single targets of the accentual  $f_0$  gesture, and speakers of Zeelandic Dutch and Dutch Low Saxon mixed both strategies.