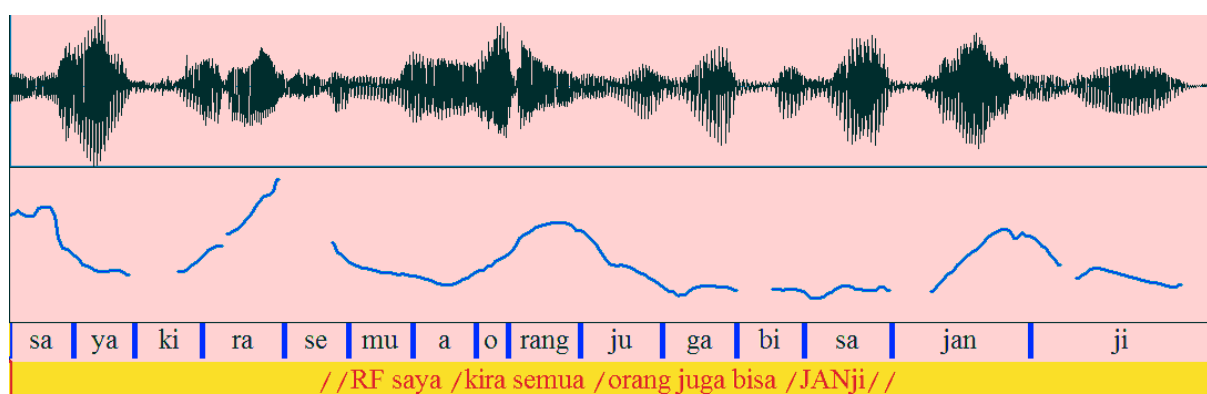


Pretonic Patterns of Intonation in Javanese Indonesian Spontaneous Dialogue: A Study in Systemic Phonology

This paper presents the preliminary results of a systemic phonological study on the intonation of Javanese Indonesian, focusing on the potential patterns in its pretonic. The acoustic analysis of the pitch movement showing the pattern is given by using PRAAT image. The discussion of the patterns is based on the data of the spontaneous dialogue in Indonesian between Javanese people. The purpose of the study is to observe the potential pretonic pattern in the natural intonation.

Intonation plays an important role in a contextual conversation. Hence, the study of it will sound comprehensive when the data is taken from spontaneous exchange and it relates the discussion within the context. The description of intonation presented here is based on the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics developed by Halliday (1994). Intonation in Hallidayan model is structured by optional Pretonic + compulsory Tonic. Each possible tonic may be accompanied by its own Pretonic. And the potential pattern is either connected to the upper strata in the language stratification, i.e. lexicogrammar and semantics or the below strata, i.e. phonetics. The sideways reading of intonation is possible in its own strata, i.e. phonology.

In Javanese Indonesian, there is typically one unique characteristic to recognize the pretonic pattern, i.e. the high intensity of the syllable beginning with voiced consonant. It helps to put foot boundaries in continuous speech. In some cases, it also helps finding the tonic syllable. But the major pitch movement may not correspond with the highest intensity in the tone group.



Pitch Range 125 Hz – 350 Hz
Silence threshold: 0.1

Fig. 1. Swinging pattern of rising-falling in Pretonic.

One of the pretonic patterns found in the data is swinging pitch movement of rising-falling as shown in Figure 1. It is interesting to note that the pattern seemingly copies the pitch

movement of tonic /JANji/. The swinging pattern is stepping down until the boundary of the tonic. Using the context in which the dialogue happens, this swinging pattern brings the statement showing awe which is sarcastic.

The results of this study are intended to build up the intonation system functionally, i.e. tonality, tonicity and tone in the language of Javanese Indonesian. However, the discussion is still preliminary since the data is only the sample of spontaneous dialogues in particular context. More genres of conversations need to be considered in terms of more finding of the patterns not only in pretonic but also tonic which is not discussed in detail in the paper.

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