



Melodic Peaks in the Spontaneous Speech of Vantage Level Hungarian Learners of Spanish

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SinFonJA 13 26 Sep 2020



Introduction

- HUN and SPA stress systems are radically different
- HUN word-initial fixed position
- SPA: most typically the penult (DELATTRE, 1965)
- Three Syllable Window Restriction (ALCOBA & MURILLO, 1988: 153).

Previous studies

- advanced Hungarian learners of Spanish (HLS)
- stress: criticized by native Spanish speakers (BADITZNÉ, 2019)
- negative transfer: A2-B1 HLS: melodic peaks on the 1st syllables of lexical words
- The present study: **melodic characteristics of stressed syllables in the spontaneous speech of at least B2 HLS**
- ➔ Do B2 level Hungarian learners of Spanish still transfer their Hungarian stress patterns to Spanish words?

Corpus

- **100 European Spanish and 100 Hungarian Spanish utterances**
- Both corpora 16 speakers within a Map Task activity
- SPA: *Interactive Atlas of Romance Intonation* compiled by PRIETO et al. (2010-2014)
- HLS: informants recorded in a soundproof room in Budapest by Z. K. Gaál

Method

- **Prosodic Analysis of Speech analysis (CANTERO, 2019)**
- intonation must be interpreted strictly as the succession of relevant F0 variations
- Marking stress by melodic means is part of the prelinguistic (not-yet-linguistic) level of intonation.
- Role: segment to speech into units

Analysis

- **Typical F0 values for each syllable standardization**
- The proportion of rise/fall in % with respect to the previous syllable
- 10%: perception threshold (FONT-ROTCHÉS & MATEO, 2011)

Results

	Spanish	Hungarian
peaks (total per 100 utterances)	246 (100%)	299 (100%)
peaks on pre-tonic syllables	27 (11%)	35 (12%)
peaks on tonic syllables	76 (31%)	93 (31%)
peaks on immediately post-tonic syllables	93 (38%)	120 (40%)
peaks in monosyllabic words	48 (20%)	51 (17%)
word-initial peaks on unstressed syllables in polysyllabic words	39 (16%)	33 (11%)

Table 1. The distribution of tonal peaks with respect to stressed syllables in both corpora

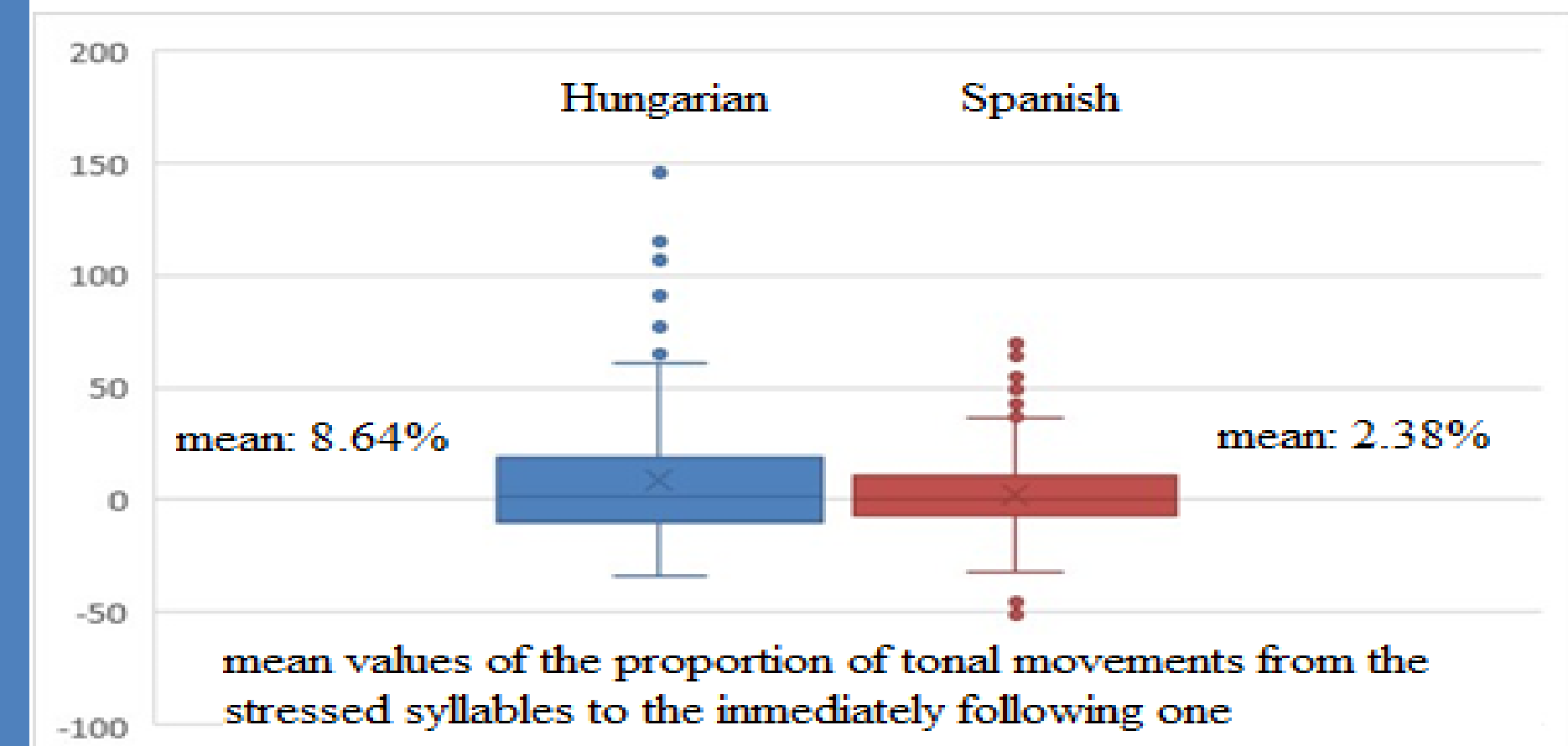
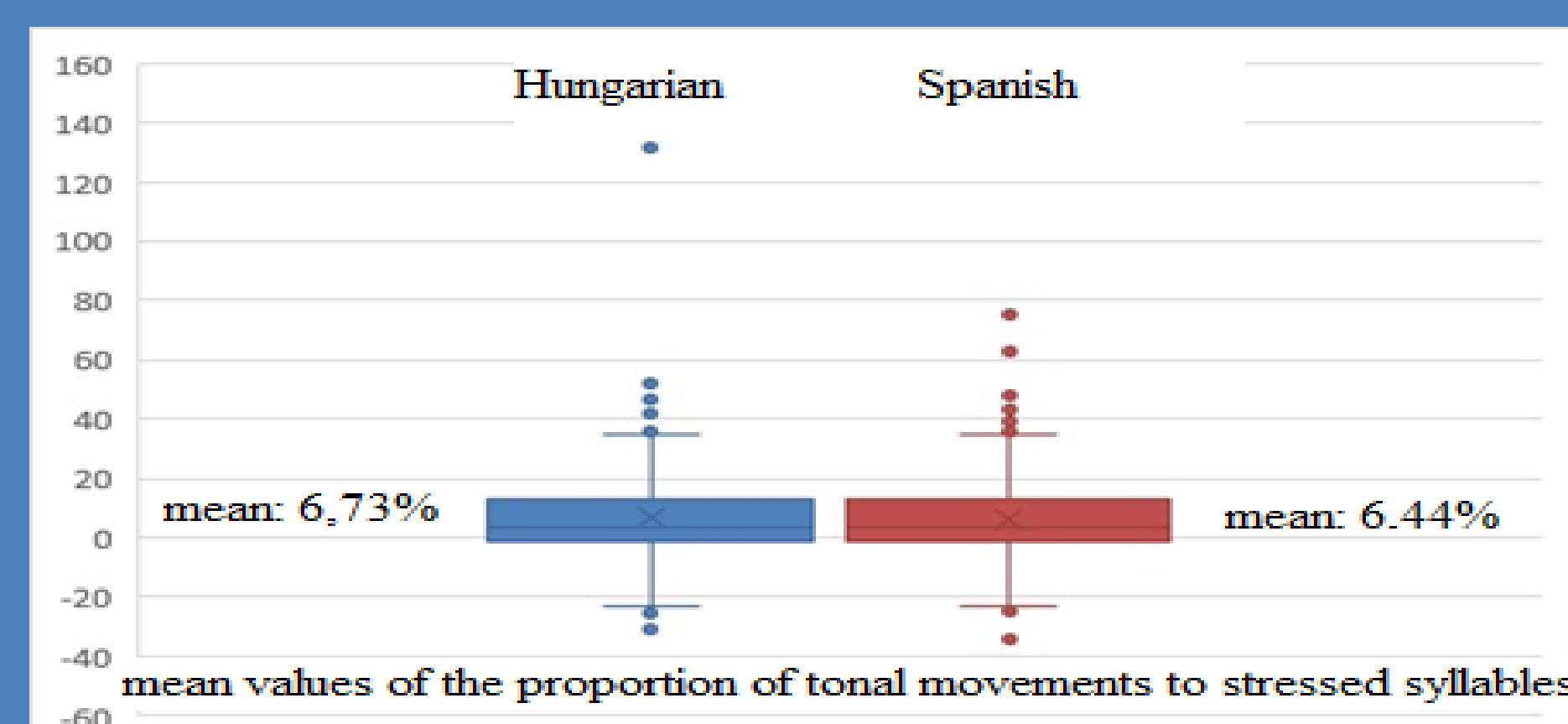


Figure 1. Boxplots of mean tonal movements to and from the stressed syllables, both corpora

Conclusions

- B2 HLS:
- **stressed syllables realized in the same way from the intonational aspect as in a native SPA corpus.**
- If HLS sound odd to native Spanish speakers from the point of view of stress realization: **other prosodic devices** (intensity or duration)

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Acknowledgements



Supported by the ÚNKP-20-5 New National Excellence Program of the Ministry for Innovation and Technology and by the János Bolyai Research Scholarship of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.