

## Intonational convergence in a diaspora variety: The case of Bulgarian Judeo-Spanish

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Surviving despite over 500 years of separation from its country of origin, Judeo-Spanish reflects features of the surrounding languages. In our contribution, we concentrate on the variety spoken by the members of the Sephardi community in Sofia, all of them bilinguals with Bulgarian as their dominant language. While exhibiting some relics from Medieval Spanish in its consonantal system, this Spanish diaspora variety shows a puzzling similarity with Bulgarian concerning vowel raising and global speech rhythm (Fischer et al. 2014, Gabriel & Kireva 2014), which suggests that it has converged towards the surrounding language regarding its timing patterns.

Based on a corpus of read and spontaneous speech, we investigate whether convergence between Judeo-Spanish and Bulgarian shows up to the same extent on the intonational level. Our data comprise (first) reading of *The north wind and the sun* in its Judeo-Spanish and Bulgarian versions and (second) narrative interviews, recorded in Sofia (2012/2014) with four Judeo-Spanish/Bulgarian bilinguals and four monolingual speakers of Bulgarian. The bilinguals are native speakers of Judeo-Spanish, who used that language on a regular basis in familiar settings along with Bulgarian, which became their dominant language when they moved to Sofia for study purposes between 1947 and 1950, whereas the monolinguals have been living in Sofia throughout their life. All subjects are female, hold an academic degree and were aged 80–88 at the time of data collection. The bilinguals were recorded in both of their languages, the monolinguals in Bulgarian only.

We will provide both a phonetic description of the F0 contours produced by our speakers and a phonological interpretation of the relevant F0 movements in terms of underlying tonal targets. Our analysis will be presented within the Autosegmental-Metrical model, based on recent studies on Spanish and Bulgarian intonational phonology (Andreeva 2007, Dimitrova & Jun 2015, Hualde & Prieto 2015). First results of the analyses performed on the read data suggest that Judeo-Spanish intonation at least partly follows the Bulgarian model.

### References

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