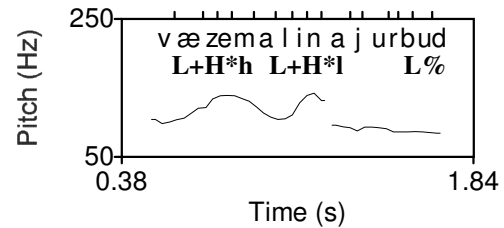


Abstract

Intonation of Cause in Persian

A construction in modern conversational Persian is introduced in this paper. This construction is one of the possible constructions in Persian for conveying the cause of an event but it is the only one which does not employ any specific particle or conjunction for this purpose and all is done by intonation.

væz-e mali najur bud.
situation-EZAFE financial bad was
'Because the financial situation was bad.'



Working in the framework of autosegmental-metrical theory of intonation (Ladd 1996), based on works such as Pierrehumbert (1980), and using the methodology of Atterer and Ladd (2004), I have instrumentally compared the L+H pattern of the nuclear pitch accent Accentual Phrase with that of a perceptually identical construction where the final element of the subject (*mali*) is contrastively focused. I have also compared these two constructions with one that contained the same test Accentual Phrase in a default nuclear position.

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