

Sociophonetic Conditioning of F0 Range Compression in Diasporic Nepali Communities

Authors : Neelam Chhetry, Indranil Dutta

Abstract : The present study accounts for the fundamental frequency (f0) perturbations of stop types in Nepali spoken in the Maram region of Manipur, India. Two different experiments were performed on the speech of the native speakers of Nepali in order to investigate if the f0 perturbation following the stop types would be affected due to contact with tonal language, Maram. We found that the Nepali speakers maintained four way stop contrast: voiceless stop (VS), voiceless aspirated stop (VLAS), voiced stop (VS) and voiced aspirated stop (VAS) despite being in contact with Maram for a very long time. We also found that the F0 range was greater for VAS leading to F0 compression for speakers with high level of proficiency (LOP) in Maram due to extensive language contact.

Keywords : F0, sociophonetic, F0 range, sociophonetic

Conference Title : ICLLTL 2016 : International Conference on Linguistics, Language Teaching and Learning

Conference Location : Barcelona, Spain

Conference Dates : February 15-16, 2016