

The role of English in modern Arrernte Intonation and Prosody

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Abstract

Anecdotal evidence has suggested that current changes in the Central Arrernte language may be due to the impact of English. This paper presents current phonetic research which shows some of the reality of this phenomena. In Rickard (2006), acoustic data was presented on the rhythm of two narratives spoken by Arrernte elders. This was based on Grabe and Low's (2002) Pairwise Variability Index (PVI). Further research presented at the Inaugural OzPhon Workshop (Rickard, 2007) used an alternative Rhythm measure and presented similar results. The current research will compare these results with that of a younger Arrernte speaker. Data will also be presented on a comparison of intonation in the two languages. The results of the phonetic data show that there is a clear indication that English has had some influence on Rhythm in Arrernte, however, as can be expected, the relationship of any influence in the Intonation is harder to determine.

References:

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