

## **Prosodic Features of Interrogative Possessive Constructions in Native and Non-native Finnish**

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The paper deals with the interrogative form of the possessive construction in Finnish spoken as both a native language (L1) and as a second language (L2). Based on actual language usage, this study aims at making a comparison between interrogative possessive constructions in L1 and L2 data, and examining questions of syntactic tightness and looseness as reflected in both syntax and prosody of these expressions.

The data come from the ProoF (Pronunciation of Finnish by Immigrants in Finland) corpus, and consist of 38 min and 33 sec of picture-elicited dialogues from speakers of Thai and similar data from 5 native female Finnish speakers for comparison. Although the data is not naturally occurring conversation, it is nevertheless spontaneous speech to a high extent and thus reflects the practices that speakers employ in naturally occurring conversation.

The data show quite a high degree of fixedness, which is reflected directly in the prosody of utterances containing these constructions. The interrogative possessive construction seems to form a distinct unit in both subsets of data, albeit with differences in intonational features and prosodic phrasing. There are several common prosodic features in the constructions, the most important of these being that the phrases form a coherent intonation contour. In both data subsets the beginning of the construction *onko sinulla* or *onks sul* forms a distinct unit, typically composed of one prosodic word (Bruce 1998; Aho 2010) in the L1 data and forming a “tight” entity also in the L2 data, albeit composed of two prosodic words.

### **References**

- Aho, Eija 2010: *Spontaanin puheen prosodinen jaksottelu*. Pic Monographs. Helsinki: Helsingin yliopisto.
- Bruce, Gösta 1998: *Allmän och svensk prosodi*. Praktisk lingvistik 16. Lunds universitet: Institutionen för lingvistik.