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Fonetische Kenmerken van Sleep- en Stoottoon in het Dialect van Weert

Summary

This article reports an acoustic investigation of a tonal distinction between 'sleeptoon' and 'stoottoon' in the Limburg dialect of Weert. The analysis is based on a fairly large corpus of minimal pairs differing in tone. A quantification of the segment durations and the pitch movements associated with the tones reveals that there is a clear acoustic distinction between the tones. At an abstract level of analysis, the 'sleeptoon' can be characterized as a rise-fall configuration the peak of which occurs relatively early in the accented syllable. The 'stoottoon' has a similar configuration, but it occurs relatively late. This distinction in pitch movement alignment is observed to correlate with a difference in vowel duration as well as with a difference in slope.