

Intonation analysis in news reading by Palki Sharma: A suprasegmental approach

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Abstract

This study analyzes the use of intonation in news reading by Palki Sharma with a suprasegmental approach in the news Ukraine War: Understanding Russian President Vladimir Putin. This study aims to identify the types and functions of intonation used by Palki Sharma based on the suprasegmental theory proposed by Collins & Mees (2013). The data in this study were collected from recordings of news broadcasts hosted by Palki Sharma and analyzed using a PRAAT voice analyzer, which functions to analyze sound. This research uses a qualitative descriptive method, where the data collected is transcribed, categorized, and analyzed to determine the type of intonation, the function of the intonation used, and the attitude shown by Palki Sharma through the intonation she produces. The results show that out of 66 data containing Palki Sharma's attitudes and emotions, she predominantly uses low fall intonation (33 data) to show assertiveness and concern, rise-fall intonation (26 data) to convey sarcasm and skepticism, fall-rise intonation (5 data) appears in the context of correction or reminder of a fact, high rise (1 data) which shows curiosity, and high fall (1 data) is used in the context of dramatizing. Functionally, Sharma's intonation highlights important points, expresses attitude, clarifies sentence structure, and builds a serious news atmosphere. This study also shows that Palki Sharma's intonation conveys information and forms a critical opinion towards Putin.

Keywords: Intonation, News Reading, Palki Sharma, Putin, Suprasegmental

1. Introduction

Language is a coherent system that can be described by the principles of Universal Grammar. All languages in the world share fundamental similarities in their grammar because humans have an innate cognitive capacity that enables them to understand and learn any language. This language structure includes essential components, such as syntax, which organizes the arrangement of words and phrases; morphology, which determines the process of word formation; phonology, which manages sound patterns; and semantics, which facilitates understanding the meaning of words and sentences. Therefore, although each language has its own characteristics and distinctive features, they all operate based on universal principles that are inherent and underlie the human linguistic system (Chomsky, 2011).

Language has three main functions: ideational, interpersonal, and textual. The ideational function refers to the use of language to convey ideas, thoughts, or experiences. (Korneeva, Kosacheva, & Parpura, 2019). To achieve the functional purpose of language, individuals must consider how to effectively convey ideas and information. Language can be communicated through two primary modalities: verbal and nonverbal. Verbal communication refers to the

transmission of messages through words, either orally or in written form, encompassing activities such as speaking, discussing, writing letters, or delivering presentations. Conversely, nonverbal communication conveys meaning without using words, relying on cues such as gestures, facial expressions, hand signals, and eye contact. These two communication modes complement one another and ensure recipients effectively deliver and understand messages. (Mailani, Nuraeni, Syakila & Lazuardi, 2022).

The way a person speaks or conveys information is not only influenced by the choice of words and sentence structure but also by the way or pattern of speech used. In the field of linguistics, this way of speaking can be studied through phonology, which refers to the functional and systemic properties of specific language sounds (Levis & Munro, 2012).

In phonology, the study includes two main elements: Segmental and Suprasegmental features (Husain & Sajid, 2015). Segmental and suprasegmental features have a complementary relationship in phonology, as they work together to create meaningful language sounds. Segmentals in phonology refer to the basic elements of language sounds, which are phonemes that can be separated or distinguished from each other in a word or sentence. On the other hand, suprasegmental provides additional layers that enrich the meaning and function of sounds in communication, such as pitch, stress, rhythm, and intonation, which give nuance and variety to the way the syllable is pronounced. (Collins & Mees, 2013).

Suprasegmental aspects, encompassing variations in stress and pitch, play a critical role in oral communication. These features not only aid in distinguishing sentence types but also convey the speaker's attitudes and emotions. In the context of news broadcasting, suprasegmental features, particularly pitch, are integral to how newsreaders effectively deliver information. Pitch variation, for instance, can enhance clarity, emphasize key points, and engage the audience, thereby contributing to the overall communicative effectiveness of the broadcast.

Pitch is the human perception of how high or low a sound is. That is, when we hear a sound, we can feel that it sounds "high" (like a child's voice) or "low" (like an adult's voice). Pitch variation, which refers to intonation, has a function in communication to provide additional meaning beyond that conveyed by individual sounds (phonemes). For example, pitch variation can indicate emotion, signal a question, or emphasize certain information. Intonation operates at a level larger than an individual word, usually more than one clause or sentence (Collins & Mees, 2013).

One notable manifestation of intonation patterns can be observed in news reading. As a critical component of phonology, a comprehensive understanding of intonation is essential for interpreting how it influences and clarifies the intended meaning. Effective news delivery in mass media is highly dependent on how information is communicated to the audience. In the context of news broadcasting, appropriate intonation aids in enhancing audience comprehension, distinguishing between factual information and subjective opinion, and conveying the emotional tone or urgency of the news. Consequently, it is crucial to analyze the role of intonation in news delivery, particularly in the performance of professional news readers and anchors.

Palki Sharma Upadhyay, a prominent Indian journalist and news anchor, has achieved numerous milestones in her media career. Her career began in 2002, working at Doordarshan, India's national broadcasting service, before moving on to Hindustan Times, CNN-News18, iTV Network, and finally WION (World In One News). At WION, she became the Managing Editor and hosted the program *Gravitas*, which won the Best International News Show award at the News Broadcasting Awards 2020. In addition, Palki was also recognized with the Best News Reader award in 2007 and became one of the leading journalists covering various international events, including Barack Obama's presidential campaign.

Phalki Sarma is also known as a news anchor who has a clear and interesting delivery style. This was conveyed by one of the viewer comments @KayChannel23 in one of his videos on WION, *"I am impressed with Palki, not only she puts facts together but conveys it in an impactful way stressing the right things. This kind of journalism is missing nowadays. Great work."* The use of intonation in Sarma's news reading is interesting to analyze because it can provide insight into how intonation is represented in conveying information effectively.

These observations highlight Sharma's ability to organize facts and convey information with precision and emphasis. The intonation used in this news segment likely plays a pivotal role in capturing the audience's attention and creating an engaging atmosphere that enhances comprehension of the topic discussed. Therefore, analyzing Sharma's use of intonation in this context is essential for understanding how intonation contributes to effective news broadcasting and audience engagement.

There is a significant research gap concerning suprasegmental features, particularly in the analysis of the types and functions of intonation used by professional news readers. This study seeks to address this gap by examining various intonation types and their functions in professional English news reading, with a particular focus on how intonation reflects the speaker's attitude or emotion, as outlined in Collins and Mees (2013) Suprasegmental Theory. Understanding how intonation enhances information delivery, establishes credibility, and communicates the speaker's intentions is essential within the context of English news broadcasting. By elucidating the critical role of suprasegmental features, particularly intonation, in effective message delivery, this research aims to contribute to the broader development of linguistic and literary studies, especially within the domain of news broadcasting.

2. Theoretical Framework

2.1 Phonology

The study of the pronunciation system of a language is commonly known as phonology. Within this field, linguists primarily focus on analyzing the vowel and consonant units, known as phonemes, that form the building blocks of syllables, words, and sentences, which facilitate meaningful communication (Crystal, 1971). Phonology began to develop before the 19th century, starting with Panini's analysis of Sanskrit and Al-Khalil's dictionary of Arabic phonology. This development continued in the 19th century with the contributions of Jan Baudouin de Courtenay, who introduced the concept of phonemes, as well as Henry Sweet who focused on spoken language and created a notation system for sounds in English (Brown, 2012).

Phonology involves the study of language to determine the distribution of sounds in words and determine when sound differences have a role in distinguishing meaning. In the context of phonology, sound differences are also referred to as distinctive, contrastive, and phonemic, which are two of the most important aspects of phonological distribution. All three refer to two sounds that can be used to distinguish words. For example, the difference between the sounds /p/ and /b/ in the English words pat and bat. This difference is considered distinctive or contrastive because it can change the meaning of the word, and it is a very important aspect of sound distribution in phonology (Ladefoged & Johnson, 2014).

A fundamental concept in phonology is the phoneme, which refers to the smallest sound unit in a language that serves to distinguish meaning. Phonemes are not necessarily tied to specific letters but are instead defined by the sounds used in spoken communication. For instance, while the letter "p" may represent the phoneme /p/ in English, phonemes can encompass a range of sounds that do not have one-to-one correspondence with written symbols. (Collins & Mees, 2013).

Phonology is divided into two elements, segmental and suprasegmental features, to analyze the sound of language. To address the purpose of the study, this study employs a suprasegmental approach, specifically focusing on the analysis of suprasegmental features with an emphasis on intonation as utilized by Palki Sharma in her role as a news anchor on WION (World Is One News). This approach aims to explore the type of intonation and how intonation functions in shaping meaning, conveying emotions, and enhancing audience engagement in the context of news broadcasting.

2.2 Suprasegmental

Suprasegmental features are commonly categorized as encompassing elements such as stress and pitch, or they may be defined as features whose influence extends beyond an individual segment. Unlike segmental features, which are confined to single sound units, suprasegmental features operate across multiple segments, such as syllables, and play a crucial role in shaping meaning and interpretation in spoken language (Lehiste & Lass, 1976).

Suprasegmental features operate independently of the categories typically used to describe segmental features, such as vowels and consonants. Suprasegmental features are primarily concerned with prosodic elements, which cannot be fully explained through segmental parameters alone. This distinction highlights the unique role of suprasegmentals in shaping speech patterns and communicative intent (Ladefoged & Johnson, 2014).

2.2.1 Pitch

Pitch is the human perception of how high or low a sound is. That is, when we hear a sound, we can feel that it sounds “high” (like a child’s voice) or “low” (like an adult’s voice). Pitch variation plays an important role in communication as it provides additional meaning beyond that conveyed by individual sounds (phonemes). For example, pitch variation can indicate emotion, signal a question, or emphasize certain information (Collins & Mees, 2013).

The frequency or rate of vibration of the vocal cords is a critical determinant of pitch in speech. Generally, a higher vibration frequency corresponds to a higher perceived pitch, while a lower frequency results in a lower pitch. This relationship underscores the direct correlation between the physical production of sound and auditory perception. Thus, the pitch perceived by the ear is largely influenced by the frequency of vocal cord vibrations during sound production. (Collins & Mees, 2013).

Pitch variation, also known as intonation, plays an important role in communication, providing additional meaning beyond that conveyed by segmental phonemes. We can distinguish two significant ways in which pitch functions, namely (1) (lexical) tone and (2) intonation. However, in English, tone does not apply, so only intonation is used in speaking English (Collins & Mees, 2013).

2.2.2 Intonation

The pitch has functioned as intonation. Intonation operates at a level larger than an individual word, usually more than one clause or sentence. Intonation is essential to human speech, providing additional types of meaning in addition to those provided by the words themselves (Collins & Mees, 2013).

Speech in linguistics has a basic unit called an intonation group, which is when someone speaks, their speech is divided into small parts that have a certain intonation pattern. Intonation group boundaries are points where speakers tend to pause in the flow of speech, although, in everyday conversation, these pauses are often not audible. These boundaries are important because they help separate ideas or meanings in speech. (Collins & Mees, 2013).

Complete intonation groups usually have one highly emphasized syllable appearing towards the end of the intonation group. This emphasized syllable will sound more prominent compared to the other syllables. This emphasized syllable usually undergoes a clear change in

pitch, such as a significant rise or fall. In addition, these emphasized syllables tend to be longer (in duration) and louder compared to other syllables in the sentence (Collins & Mees, 2013).

2.2.2.1 Type of Intonation

(a) High Fall

A fall/falling tone is the most common type of nuclear tone found in conversation. The high fall pattern is symbolized by depicting a sharp downward movement of pitch from a high to a low level. Sometimes, before the pitch drops, there can be a slight rise in pitch at first, but the main movement is a drop (Collins & Mees, 2013).

(b) Low fall

Low fall has less pitch movement, meaning that the difference between the high and low tones is not very big. After the intonation nucleus, the syllables that follow the fall pattern will have a low pitch. This means that the whole section after the nucleus will tend to have a low pitch if the nucleus itself falls (Collins & Mees, 2013).

(c) Low Rise

Rise/Rising pitches are less common than falls. When there is a rising pitch, the pitch movement generally moves from the low to the middle level. The low-rise pattern shows that the rising intonation starts from a low pitch and moves towards a higher pitch but is not extremely high. If there is a syllable after the nucleus, the rising pattern will be followed by the entire syllable (Collins & Mees, 2013).

(d) High Rise

High rise, which starts from the middle pitch and rises to the high pitch, possibly at a time when the pitch rises significantly (Collins & Mees, 2013).

(e) Fall-Rise

Fall-rise is denoted by the symbol. This pattern starts with a high pitch that drops to a low pitch and then rises again to a medium pitch. This pitch movement gives the impression that the speaker may be hesitant or not entirely sure, but it also indicates a change or emphasis in the conversation. After the fall rise, the syllables that follow the nucleus will continue to follow the pattern set by the nucleus, which is to continue rising (Collins & Mees, 2013).

(f) Rise-Fall

Rise-fall involves a pitch movement that starts from a mid-level pitch, rises to a high pitch, and then falls back to a low pitch. After the rise-fall nucleus, the syllables following the nucleus will continue to follow the low pitch pattern, remaining low (Collins & Mees, 2013).

2.2.2.2 Function of Intonation

(a) Focusing Function

The focusing function in intonation means that the speaker emphasizes the most important information by placing the nucleus on a specific part of the sentence. Typically, the nucleus is located at the end of the sentence or intonation group. However, sometimes, the nucleus can be moved to a preceding syllable to highlight important information that the speaker wants to emphasize. This is usually indicated by underlining and bolding the nucleus so the listener knows what is being focused on or emphasized in the speech (Collins & Mees, 2013).

(b) Attitudinal Function

The attitudinal function in intonation allows the speaker to add attitude or feeling on top of the semantic meaning being conveyed. This is one of the most important functions of intonation and explains why written text cannot fully capture the message conveyed in speech. Although we can only broadly associate attitudes with nuclear tone patterns, as much depends on the context and semantic content of the sentence, two tones carry attitudinal connotations: fall-rise and rise-fall. Fall-rise indicates attitudes such as doubt, correction, reservation, or asking the listener to reconsider. Meanwhile, rise-fall suggests attitudes such as being impressed, arrogant, confident, self-satisfied, mocking or putting someone down. In addition, there are

some broader distinctions of pitch. High fall and low rise are considered neutral. On the other hand, low fall and high rise serve a reinforcing function, emphasizing or exaggerating the speaker's attitude. For example, low fall is often associated with boredom, resignation, or displeasure, while high rise is more commonly linked to excitement and curiosity (Collins & Mees, 2013).

(c) Grammatical Function

Grammatical function in intonation refers to the role of intonation in marking grammatical structures and syntactic relations in sentences. Intonation helps distinguish grammatical functions, such as marking the difference between a statement, question, or exclamation, as well as indicating phrase or clause boundaries in an utterance (Collins & Mees, 2013).

(d) Discourse Function

The discourse function in intonation involves the organization of conversation, such as signals for turn-taking, the relationship between the speaker and the listener (e.g., related to power or authority), and the distinction between new and old information. Intonation also shows two main categories based on whether the intonation rises or falls. Falling tones (such as high fall, low fall, and rise-fall) indicate finality and the delivery of completed information. Meanwhile, rising tones (such as high rise, low rise, and fall rise) suggest non-finality, and that information is still being sought or anticipated rather than being delivered. When using a rising pattern, the question sounds more friendly and engaging and invites further conversation, often used in casual or introductory contexts. Conversely, if it uses a falling pattern, the question sounds more neutral and business-like and tends to indicate that the speaker expects a direct answer, such as in a professional interview. These exceptions show that intonation is not only influenced by the discourse function of organizing conversation but also by the attitude or feelings of the speaker, which gives an emotional dimension to communication (Collins & Mees, 2013).

3. Research Method

The methodology guides the entire research process, ensuring that the methods chosen are appropriate to answer the research questions. Without a good methodology, the research process becomes flawed, making it impossible to assess the validity of the results and conclusions (Patel & Patel, 2019). In other words, the method used to analyze data becomes one of the main components in the research design because it determines the way data is processed, interpreted, and ultimately used to answer research questions.

A qualitative approach is essential in research because it allows for a deeper understanding of phenomena that cannot be explained simply with numerical or statistical data (Susanto, Yuntina, Saribanon, Soehaditama, & Liana, 2024). This means the main focus of the qualitative approach is to understand the meaning of individuals or groups in a particular context. This method usually emphasizes the subjective interpretation of social phenomena, culture, or human behavior that is difficult to measure with quantitative data.

Qualitative research has three fundamental aspects that become the framework for understanding and applying it. The first is how reality is understood, the second is the type of questions that are considered important, and the third is the procedure used to obtain answers, where the procedures are used in research. (Cropley, 2023). Qualitative research has characteristics, namely descriptive, which means that the data collected is presented in the form of a narrative or in-depth explanation of a phenomenon. This characteristic allows researchers to provide a comprehensive understanding of the subject under investigation by capturing its nuances and complexities. (Bogdan & Biklen, 1997).

Qualitative descriptive research is also a valid and widely accepted qualitative research design that aims to provide a comprehensive summary of events or phenomena using everyday

language that is easily understood. Unlike other qualitative approaches that may focus more on deep interpretation or abstract theoretical frameworks, qualitative descriptive research emphasizes detailed and accurate descriptions of data collected from participants or field observations. This approach is particularly useful for capturing social realities and human experiences more directly and contextually, allowing for a more holistic understanding of the phenomenon under investigation (Lambert & Lambert, 2012).

This study employs a qualitative descriptive methodology to investigate the intonation patterns employed by Indian news anchor Palki Sharma in a specific news broadcast. The research design utilizes a qualitative approach deemed appropriate for exploring the nuanced meanings conveyed through intonation, which are not readily quantifiable. This approach prioritizes an in-depth understanding of the phenomena under study, focusing on the subjective interpretation of Sharma's vocal delivery within its specific context.

The research data source is a YouTube video of Palki Sharma presenting "Ukraine War: Understanding Russian President Vladimir Putin," serving as a secondary data source. Data collection involved a non-participant observation method, encompassing several steps: converting the video to audio, manual transcription, segmentation of the audio into intonation groups using audio editing software, and selection of relevant audio segments for analysis.

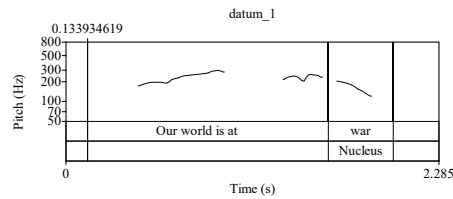
Data analysis was conducted using the PRAAT application, which is software designed for speech analysis. Paul Boersma and David Weenink at the Institute of Phonetic Sciences of the University of Amsterdam have been developing this application since 1992 (Boersma & Van Heuven, 2001). The analysis involved a systematic process: organizing data into categories, breaking it down into units, synthesizing information, identifying patterns, selecting relevant data, and drawing conclusions. Specific features of PRAAT, such as pitch contour visualization, were utilized to identify intonation types based on Collins and Mees' (2013) suprasegmental theory and to determine the functional role of these intonations in conveying meaning and enhancing communication effectiveness in news broadcasting. The analysis involved identifying the nucleus of each intonation group, classifying intonation types, and analyzing their function within the context of the news delivery. The final step involved selecting the most relevant findings and formulating conclusions. The study's findings contribute to a deeper understanding of how intonation contributes to effective communication in news broadcasting.

4. Findings and Discussions

The research results are analyzed to answer the research questions and purpose. The data analyzed in the form of intonation containing expressions of emotion and attitude of the anchor, Palki Sharma, which comes from 66 data that have been collected and consists of low fall (33), rise-fall (26), fall-rise (5), high fall (1), and high rise (1). The analysis focuses on the types of intonation used and continues by analyzing the function of each type of intonation used to determine emotions and attitudes Shown. The process involves identifying the nucleus, classifying intonation types, and analyzing their function in expressing emotions and attitudes. The journal shows some examples of analysis of 66 data sets containing Palki Sharma's attitudes and emotions. Part (a) addresses the type of intonation, while part (b) addresses the function of intonation.

1. Datum 1

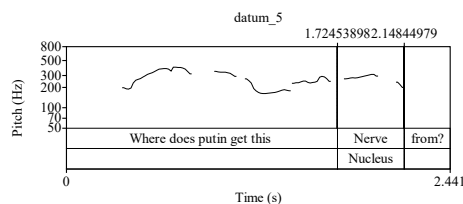
*“Our world is at **war**”*



- In data 1, the nucleus is found in the word “war” which is the highlight of the group’s intonation. The nucleus produces a pitch variation or intonation that is low fall, which is indicated by a slow and insignificant decrease in pitch.
- The function of low fall intonation in this group is to focus on the word “war” by giving attitude and emotion in the form of firmness and resignation. In this sentence, the word “war” explains the situation of the world that is alarming due to conflict or war. Palki Sharma brings the news in a formal, serious, and cold tone to clarify the world situation, which is not fine.

2. Datum 5

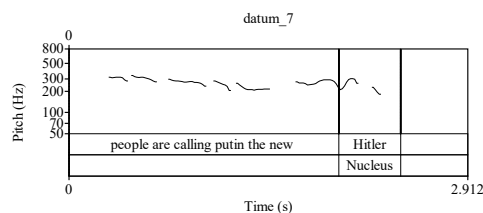
*“Where does Putin get this **nerve** from?”*



- In datum 5, the nucleus is found in the word “nerve” which gives emotion to the intonation group. The nucleus in the word “nerve” brings out the intonation pattern of rise-fall, which starts with a rise in pitch at the beginning of the word and is followed by a decrease in pitch afterward.
- In this intonation group, rise-fall is used to focus the noun ‘nerve’, which refers to Vladimir Putin's courage or audacity, and is used to describe a trait or quality possessed by a person. This rise-fall intonation pattern shows that there is a feeling of wonder or admiration for the courage possessed by Vladimir Putin. Palki Sharma delivers this question sentence with a formal tone to show her seriousness and amazement regarding the courage possessed by Vladimir Putin.

3. Datum 7

*“People are calling Putin the new **Hitler**”*

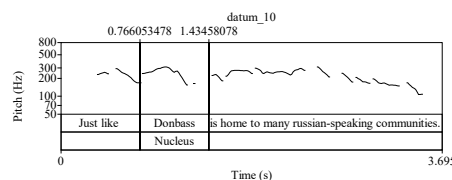


- In datum 7, the nucleus is found in the word “Hitler” which produces rise-fall intonation identified by an increased pitch at the beginning of the word and then a decreased pitch.

- b. The use of rise-fall intonation on the word “Hitler” which is a noun, can contain an element of sarcasm in the sense of more sharp criticism of Putin’s actions, but still delivered seriously and emotionally. Sarcasm in this context can be more about irony or overemphasizing the seriousness of the situation being discussed. By saying that Putin is considered Hitler-like, Palki Sharma may not have meant to say Putin is Hitler but rather to emphasize how much of an impact Putin’s actions have had on Ukraine and the world reminiscent of the horrors of history.

4. Datum 10

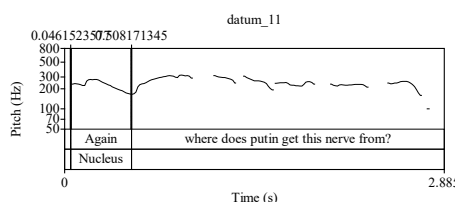
*“Just like **Donbas** is home to many Russian-speaking communities”*



- a. In datum 10, the nucleus is found in the word “Donbas” which is the highlight of this intonation group. The nucleus produces a rise-fall intonation pattern, which is characterized by an increase at the beginning followed by a decrease in the next syllable.
- b. This rise-fall intonation highlights the complexity of the Donbas conflict. By emphasizing “Donbas,” Palki Sharma underscores its critical role in the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The intonation suggests that the issue is not just a fact but carries deeper, serious implications. Through this pattern, she conveys the region’s significance with a formal and serious tone, reinforcing the gravity of the situation.

5. Datum 11

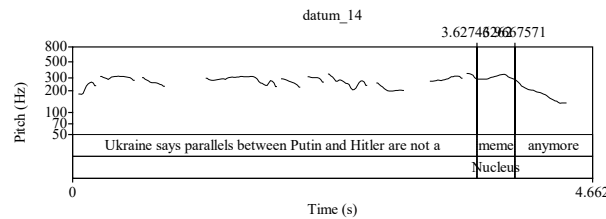
*“**Again** where does Putin get this nerve from?”*



- a. In datum 11, the nucleus is found at the beginning of the intonation group in the word “again” which is the highlight. The nucleus produces an intonation pattern that is low fall, which is characterized by a decrease in pitch but is not significant.
- b. The low-fall intonation of “again” reinforces and clarifies the repeated question. It adds assertiveness, not just repeating the query but also expressing astonishment or frustration over Vladimir Putin’s actions. By stressing “again,” Palki Sharma highlights that questioning Putin’s boldness is not new but a recurring and significant issue. This intonation creates a serious and assertive tone, emphasizing a critical or skeptical stance toward Putin’s actions, which are seen as remarkable or concerning.

6. Datum 14

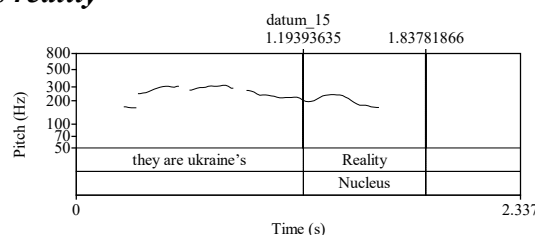
*“Ukraine says parallels between Putin and Hitler are not a **meme** anymore”*



- In datum 14, the nucleus is located on the word “meme”, which is the main focal point in the intonation group. This nucleus produces a rise-fall intonation pattern, which is characterized by an increase in pitch at the beginning of the word and a decrease afterward.
- This intonation pattern serves to emphasize the word “meme” in a way that portrays a sense of enthusiasm or passion in delivering the statement. In the sentence “Ukraine says parallels between Putin and Hitler are not a meme anymore,” the rise-fall pattern on the word “meme” creates a more lively feel, illustrating that the comparison between Putin and Hitler that was previously considered light or funny has now turned into something serious. The rise-fall intonation, which starts with a rise in pitch to show attention or emphasis on the word “meme”, followed by a fall in pitch that gives a sense of finality, reinforces that this change in perspective is delivered with a sense of enthusiasm or conviction. This shows that the statement is not just information but also a warning or an impassioned statement that should be taken seriously.

7. Datum 15

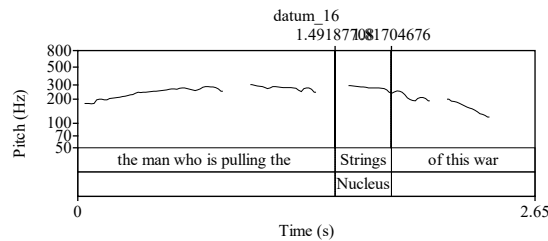
*“They are Ukraine’s **reality**”*



- In datum 15, the nucleus is the word “reality” which is the highlight of the group’s intonation. The nucleus produces a low fall intonation pattern characterized by an insignificant drop in pitch.
- The low-fall intonation pattern on the word “reality” gives an emphatic impression and shows that this statement is something that is certain and cannot be denied. It emphasizes that the current reality faced by Ukraine is something that must be faced and accepted, with no attempt to avoid or change it. The low-fall intonation adds depth and power to the statement, giving a formal and serious feel to the reality Ukraine is facing.

8. Datum 16

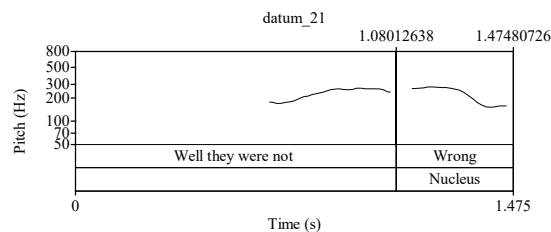
*“The man who is pulling the **strings** of this war”*



- In datum 16, the nucleus is found in the word “strings” which is the highlight of the group’s intonation. The nucleus produces a low fall intonation pattern characterized by an insignificant drop in pitch.
- The low fall intonation of this word emphasizes the importance of the word “strings” in describing the complete control that Vladimir Putin has over the war situation. This pattern is used by Palki Sharma to give a firm and deep impression, reinforcing the understanding that someone has great authority or influence in determining the course of events.

9. Datum 21

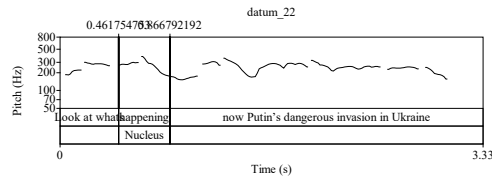
*“Well they were not **wrong**”*



- In datum 21, the nucleus is found at the end of the intonation group on the highlighted word “wrong”. The nucleus produces a low fall intonation pattern, which is characterized by a decrease in pitch but is not significant.
- Low fall intonation functions to provide affirmation and certainty. This intonation shows that the statement is something definite and indisputable, indicating that the opinion in the previous sentence is true. The use of low fall intonation also implies confidence, showing that Palki Sharma is sure of the truth of the statement and there is no hesitation in delivering it. In addition, this intonation provides confirmation or agreement with the previous statement, reinforcing that the party is correct in its assessment. By focusing on the word “wrong”, low fall intonation emphasizes that the error or untruth that was originally questioned has now been justified, giving a serious and confident feel to the message being conveyed.

10. Datum 22

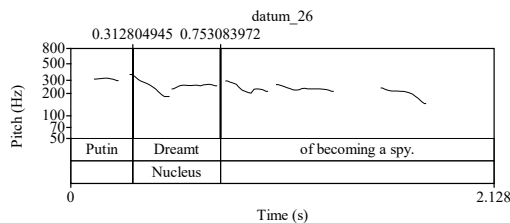
*“Look at what’s **happening** now Putin’s dangerous invasion in Ukraine”*



- a. In datum 22, the nucleus is found at the beginning of the word “happening” which is highlighted. The nucleus produces a rise-fall intonation pattern characterized by an increase in pitch on the initial phoneme and a decrease in pitch afterward.
- b. The use of intonation like rise-fall emphasizes “happening.” Palki Sharma wants to focus attention on the fact that the event is not just a possibility or a prediction but something real and happening now. The rise-fall intonation of the word “happening” seems to be used to imply the truth of the previous statement made by Palki Sharma. With this intonation pattern, Palki Sharma emphasizes that the ongoing dangerous invasion of Ukraine is real and cannot be ignored. The rise-fall intonation gives the impression that what is happening now is a direct consequence of what has been said earlier about Putin’s behavior. Besides implying a subtle criticism of Putin’s actions, it also reinforces the impression that the events are evidence that justifies his views, adding intensity and urgency to the statement.

11. Datum 26

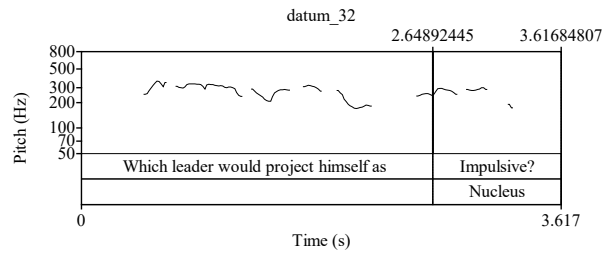
*“Putin **dreamt** of becoming a spy”*



- a. In datum 26, the nucleus is on the word “dreamt” which is the highlight of this intonation group. The nucleus produces a fall-rise intonation pattern which is characterized by a decrease in pitch at the beginning of the word and a rise afterwards.
- b. This pattern creates an interpretive effect that gives a sense of reflection or contrast to Putin’s aspiration to become a spy. This intonation not only emphasizes the word but also highlights the difference or contrast with other contexts, such as common aspirations that children of his age might have at that time. The emphasis on the word ‘dreamt’ reinforces the narrative that this desire is something unique and significant, and reflects Putin’s unusually big ambition. In addition, the intonation gives a serious feel, as if to suggest that this wish is an important cornerstone in understanding his life journey. As such, the narrative not only recounts facts but also conveys a certain attitude or outlook towards Putin’s decision and life journey.

12. Datum 32

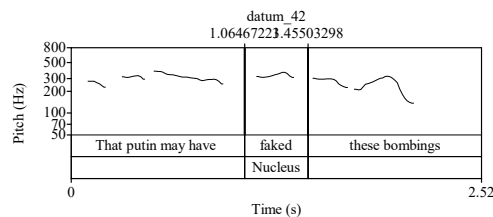
*“Which leader would project himself as **impulsive**?”*



- In the 32nd datum, the nucleus is found in the word “impulsive” which is the core of the group intonation. The nucleus produces a rise-fall intonation pattern which is characterized by an increase in pitch at the beginning of the word and a decrease afterwards.
- The function of this intonation is to express astonishment or disbelief at Putin’s actions in describing his self-image as “impulsive”. Here, “impulsive” refers to a trait that tends to act without careful planning or consideration of consequences, often based on a momentary impulse. The increase in pitch at the beginning of the sentence indicates assertiveness in the question, while the decrease in pitch on the word “impulsive” gives the impression that the speaker feels surprised or confused by the idea of a leader who would project himself as impulsive. This drop in pitch gives the nuance that the speaker judges the idea as unusual or irrational, indicating a sense of wonder at the question. Thus, this intonation reinforces the emotion of astonishment that the sentence is trying to convey.

13. Datum 42

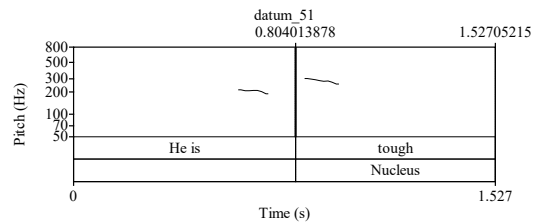
*“That Putin may have **faked** these bombings”*



- In datum 42, the nucleus is found in the word “faked”, which is the highlight of this group's intonation. The nucleus produces a rise-fall intonation pattern characterized by an increase in pitch at the beginning of the word and a decrease afterward.
- The rise-fall intonation function of the word “faked” can be associated with emotions such as disbelief or shock from Palki Sharma regarding such serious allegations. The use of this intonation pattern seems to portray skepticism or unreasonableness towards such actions, implicitly questioning the morality or motivation behind the alleged actions. The phrase “that Putin may have faked these bombings” itself implies a serious allegation that Vladimir Putin may have engineered or manipulated the bomb attacks. This accusation is usually associated with conspiracy theories that suggest the events were not real attacks by outsiders, but rather part of a strategy designed to gain public support, increase his popularity, and strengthen his political grip.

14. Datum 51

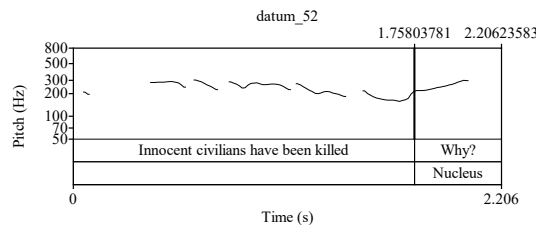
*“He’s **tough**”*



- In datum 51, the nucleus is found in the word “tough,” which is the highlight of this group's intonation. The nucleus produces a low fall intonation pattern characterized by an insignificant drop in pitch.
- The intonation function of the low fall on the word “tough” reaffirms Putin’s strength or toughness, which was previously discussed in another context. In this case, the low fall gives the impression of a firm and definite affirmation, as if Palki Sharma wants to make sure the audience understands that Putin is a strong and unshakable figure. The low fall intonation serves to reinforce the statement and adds the impression that this is an unquestionable fact. The connotation that carries over is the acknowledgment of Putin’s toughness, both in the face of physical and mental challenges, which fits the strong image that has been built up earlier.

15. Datum 52

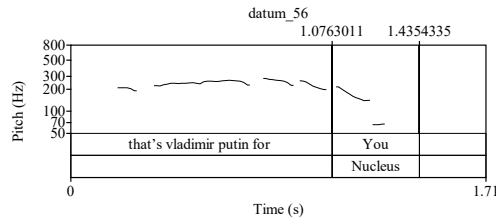
*“Innocent civilians have been killed, **why?**”*



- In datum 52, the nucleus is found in the word “why” which is the intonation highlight of this group. The nucleus produces a high-rise intonation pattern characterized by a significant increase in pitch.
- The function of high-rise intonation in the word “why” describes Palki Sharma’s deep curiosity or curiosity. By using high rise, Palki implies that her question arises out of uncertainty or confusion over the events that occurred. The high rise gives the impression that the question is not just a casual statement but rather an expression of concern or an attempt to seek further explanation. By doing so, Palki brings a strong emotion of searching for answers, which encourages the audience’s curiosity to seek the reason behind the event.

16. Datum 56

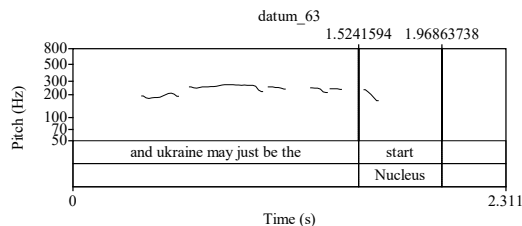
*“That’s Vladimir Putin for **you**”*



- In datum 56, the nucleus is found in the word “you,” which is the prominence of this group's intonation. The nucleus produces a high fall intonation pattern characterized by a significant drop in pitch.
- The function of the high fall intonation on the word “you” in this context is to portray resignation and firmness. In intonation theory, high fall is often used to express statements that are final or decisive, without much room for further discussion. In this case, Palki Sharma seems to be saying that “this is who Vladimir Putin is”, and what Putin does, including prioritizing state affairs and sacrificing personal relationships for the sake of the homeland, is something that has become his nature or characteristic. By using a high fall intonation pattern, Palki seems to illustrate that Putin’s actions have become part of his principles and assertiveness. Although this may seem like a decision that may not be easy or even controversial, Palki reveals that this is a reality that must be accepted by Putin, This intonation shows an attitude of resignation to Putin’s character and life choices that choose the country over personal interests.

17. Datum 63

*“and Ukraine may just be the **start**”*



- In datum 63, the nucleus is found in the word “start” which is the intonation highlight of this group. The nucleus produces a low fall intonation pattern characterized by an insignificant drop in pitch.
- The low fall intonation here carries an implied tone of concern, highlighting how precarious the situation is. By emphasizing the word “start,” Palki seems to want to encourage the audience to understand that the conflict in Ukraine could be part of a larger plan, warning of a possible threat to global stability. This reinforces the narrative that portrays the war in Ukraine as the starting point of something more significant and alarming.

5. Conclusions

An analysis of the 66 data of intonation used by Palki Sharma in delivering the news “Ukraine War: Understanding Russian President Vladimir Putin” shows that she not only conveys information neutrally but also implies certain emotions and attitudes towards Putin and his actions. The most dominant intonation types are low fall (33 data) and rise-fall (26 data), which indicate assertiveness, reaffirmation, and sarcasm in news delivery. Low fall intonation is often used to emphasize facts and show resignation to Putin’s unstoppable actions,

while rise-fall is mostly used to imply sarcasm or distrust of Putin's policies that are considered dangerous to the world. In addition, the use of fall-rise (5 data) appears in the context of correction or reminder of a fact, while high rise and high fall (1 data each) are used in the context of curiosity or dramatized statements, while for the type of intonation low rise tends to show neutrality and is not found to contain emotions or attitudes from the news anchor.

In terms of function, the intonation used by Palki Sharma plays a key role in several aspects. The focusing function is used to highlight keywords related to Putin, such as his policies, actions, or wars. The attitudinal function shows Sharma's attitude in the news, where she most often uses intonation to show assertiveness (27 data), sarcasm (13 data), disbelief (10 data), and resignation (8 data). This attitude emphasizes that the news he brings is something serious and needs attention. In addition, the grammatical function helps in separating clauses or distinguishing between statements and questions so that information is more clearly conveyed, while the discourse function builds a formal and serious nuance in the news to emphasize that the situation being discussed is critical and has a global impact.

Based on the analysis of the data obtained, it can be concluded that Palki Sharma has a distinctive approach to delivering news about Vladimir Putin, which is reflected through the dominant intonation patterns in her reporting. Low fall intonation is the most frequently used, emphasizing that Palki wants to build a serious and vigilant narrative towards Putin's every action. This firmness in intonation not only highlights Putin's behavior, policies, and personality but also how he views his country and exercises his power. By using a low fall, Palki conveys that her news is not just a factual report, but a warning of the huge impact Putin's actions could have on the world.

Besides emphasizing the seriousness of the news, Palki Sharma also uses rise-fall intonation to convey sarcasm and subtle criticism of Putin. Rise-fall reflects disapproval and skepticism towards Putin's policies that are perceived as endangering the world, as well as criticism of his courage in putting the country's interests first at all costs, even if it means sacrificing those around him. In some sections, the rise-fall intonation is also used to highlight Putin's mindset, which Palki believes is too obsessive about nationalism and power expansion.

Palki Sharma seems to regard Putin as an untrustworthy figure to watch out for, especially in terms of power expansion and the way he controls his country. She also implies that Putin is a leader who does not hesitate to use extreme means to maintain his power, whether through war, political repression, or propaganda. On the other hand, the two dominant variations of intonation in some passages also show that Palki is not only criticizing but also delivering satire on how Putin runs the government and maintains his image in the eyes of the world. This shows that Palki Sharma is not just delivering news objectively but also constructing an opinion that Putin is a real threat to the international community through intonation in news reading.

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