

RAUN

Linguistic Change in Real Time in the Phonology and Syntax of Icelandic

RESEARCH PLAN

Phonological part

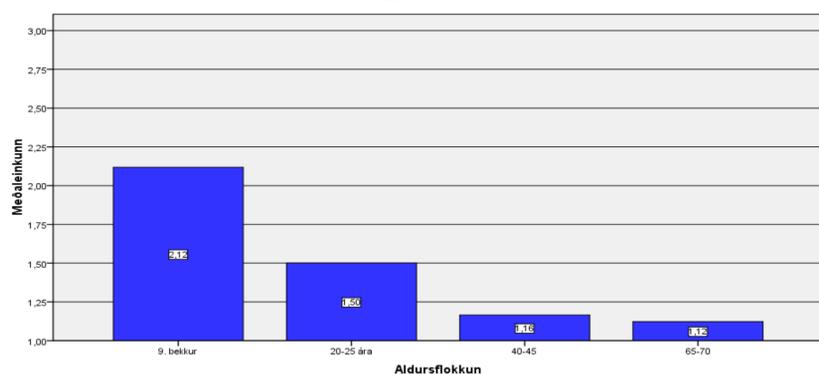
To replicate two previous studies of phonological variation in Icelandic, BG in the 1940s and RÍN in the 1980s, by interviewing some 200 speakers for the third time in about 65 years and some 400 for the second time in 25 years.

Syntactic part

To replicate the study of the New Passive/New Impersonal done by Sigríður Sigurjónsdóttir and Joan Maling in 1999-2000 by re-testing and re-interviewing some 2-300 of their subjects.

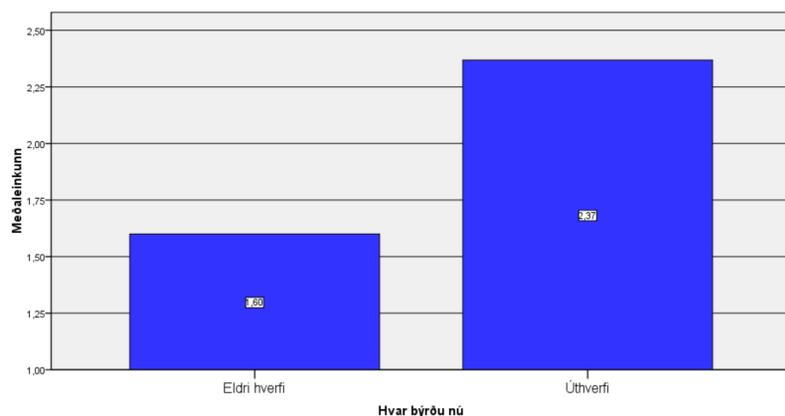
SOME RESULTS FROM ICEDIASYN

- **Strong correlation** between acceptance of NP/NI-examples and **age**:



Acceptance of NP/NI-examples: Correlation with **age** in IceDiaSyn: $r = .614$, $p = .000$

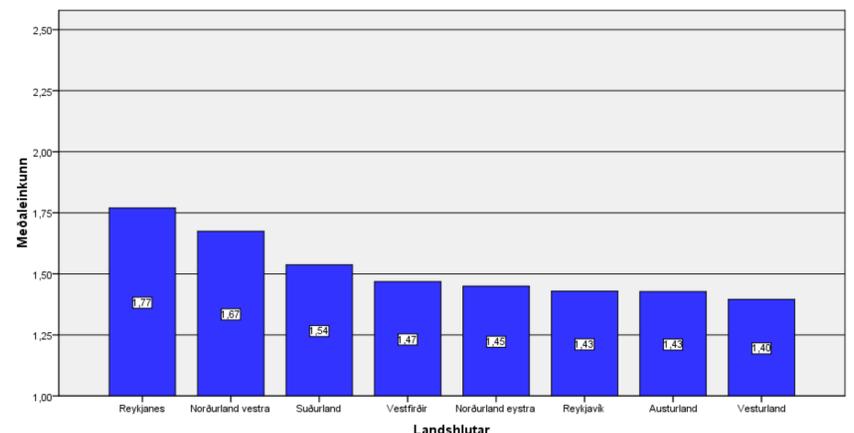
- Difference between "inner" and "outer" **Reykjavík** confirmed:



Acceptance of NP/NI-examples by the youngest age group in different parts of Reykjavík. $r = .521$, $p = .011$.

Could be related to parents' education:	r	p	N
Correlation w. father's education:	-.462,	.040	20
Correlation w. mother's education:	-.427,	.053	21

- There is some difference between geographical areas: Accepted more readily in SW-Iceland (Reykjanes) than elsewhere:



Mean acceptance of typical NP/NI-examples in IceDiaSyn in different parts of the country (3 = accepts all expls.)

	r	p
Correl. with education of subjects: (all subjects but controlling for age)	.310	.000
Correl. with gender (women slightly less likely to accept, not signif.)	-.059	.106

A question raised by the IceDiaSyn Results:

Do speakers outgrow the NP/NI?

PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM RAUN

The short answer:

Probably not, although some speakers accept it less readily as they grow older – and **don't seem to acquire it as grown-ups**. Evidence:

46 subjects in different parts of Reykjavík have been "re-tested" with the same kind of test:

- There is **good correlation** between the judgments of 8 typical and simple NP/NI-examples **then** and **now**: $r = .751$, $p = 0.000$
- 11 of the 46 subjects re-interviewed rejected all 8 examples 1999 and **all of these** still do.
- For 17 of the 46 subjects, the mean judgment of the examples has **stayed the same**, 28 accept **slightly fewer** now, **only one more** now (1 ex.).
- There is **significant correlation** between **education** level of the subjects re-tested and their acceptance of the NP/NI-examples:
 $r = -.517$, $p = .000$ (lower ed. = more accept.)