

RÍN in the 1980s

Phonological Variation in Icelandic

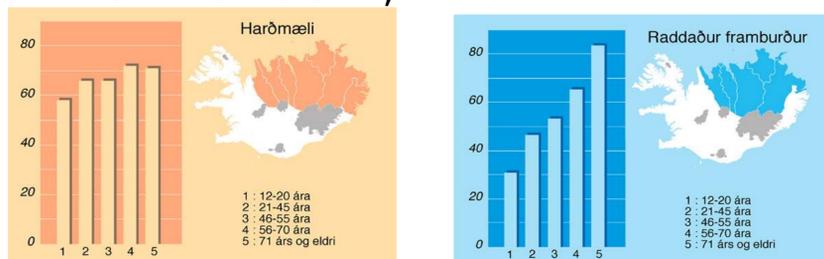
RESEARCH

Data collected in the 1980s in all parts of the country, over 2.800 subjects, all age groups. Interviews centering around pictures of selected objects (to elicit particular sounds and clusters), reading of special texts.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

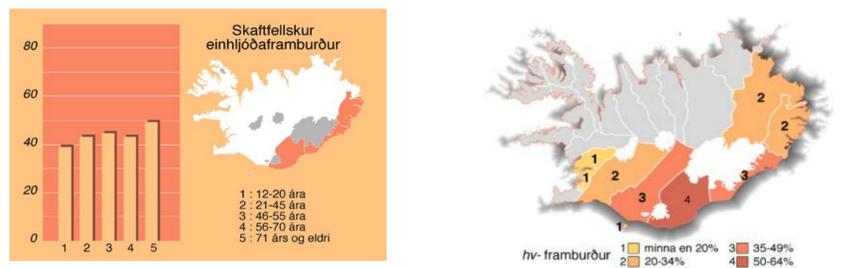
- Considerable geographical variation (still).
- Some regional dialectal features are disappearing more quickly than others (cf. "apparent time").
- Female speakers typically a little more likely than males to lead the way in changes.
- Very rarely any correlation with education.

TWO NORTH-EASTERN FEATURES, ONE HOLDING ITS OWN, THE OTHER DISAPPEARING



Aspirated stops after long vowels Voiced /l,m,n/ before /p,t,k/

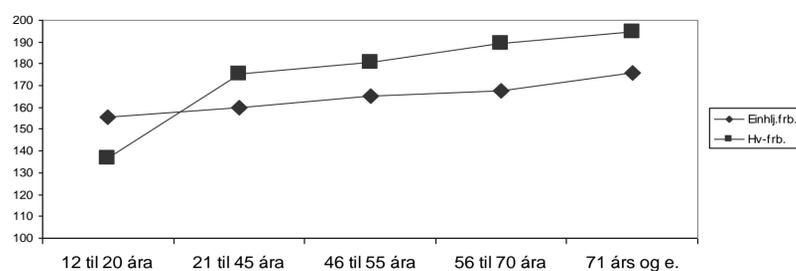
TWO SOUTHERN/SOUTH-EASTERN FEATURES, ONE HOLDING ITS OWN, THE OTHER DISAPPEARING



Monophthongs before /gi/

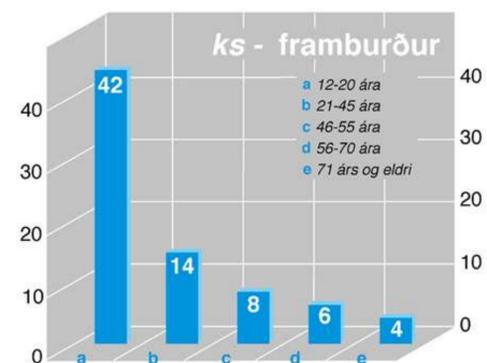
hv- [xv] word-initially

Einhjóðaframburður og hv-framburður í Vestur-Skaftafellssýslu



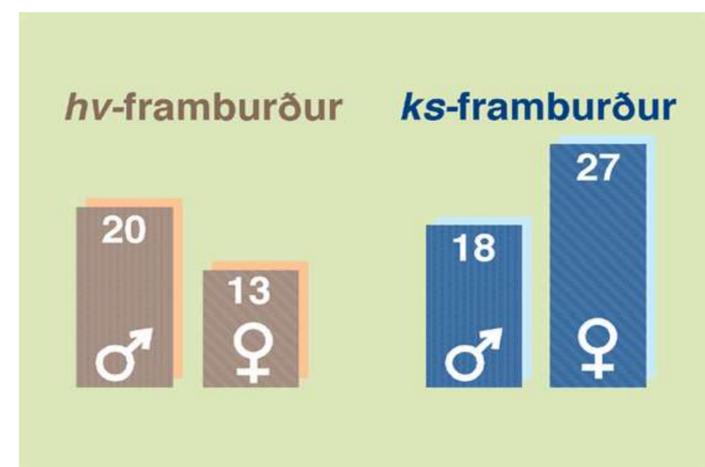
Monophthongs before /gi/ (black diamonds) vs. hv- [xv] word-initially (black squares) in the speech of different age groups South-Eastern Iceland

A Recent Non-Regional Innovation in the 1980s



ks-pronunciation (for earlier [xs] in words like uxi 'ox') in different age groups

WOMEN LEADING THE WAY IN CHANGES



hv-pronunciation (a disappearing remnant) and ks-pronunciation (an innovation gaining ground) in the speech of males and females (occurrence (%) in all parts of the country)

ALMOST TOTAL ABSENCE OF CORRELATION WITH EDUCATION

• There is no "standard (or received) pronunciation" of Icelandic. Two dialectal features have sometimes been recommended, i.e. **aspirated stops** after long vowels ("hard pronunciation") and the **hv-pronunciation**.

• The hv-pronunciation is disappearing fast, the "hard pronunciation" is holding its own.

• There is **very weak correlation** between the hard pronunciation and education ($r = .054$, controlling for age), but it is statistically significant because of the large number of subjects ($p = .006$, $N = 2.586$).

• Virtually **no correlation with education** for any of the other variables under discussion here.