



Prosodic Features in Pakistani English News Anchors: An Acoustic Study

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ABSTRACT

This study presents an acoustic qualitative analysis of the prosodic features used by Pakistani English news anchors. Prosody, such as pitch, intensity, speech rate and pausing patterns used in broadcast journalism is an important aspect of ensuring the clarity, intelligibility and effectiveness of the communication. The aim of the study is to identify the prosodic features used by the English news anchors of Pakistan and to analyse the pattern of variation in the news broadcast. Four English language news anchors both male and female were chosen from Dawn News and PTV World. The prosodic characteristics were studied by using speech samples and the software PRAAT. Theoretical background of the study is the theories of Prosodic Phonology and Acoustic Phonetics. The findings indicate that all anchors employed pitch variation, high intensity, moderate speech rate, and strategic pauses for purposes of control in news delivery. The pitch range and pitch variability were found to be higher in female anchors than in the male anchors, whereas the differences in speech rate and pause length were attributed to individual and institutional broadcasting style. The findings suggest a professional prosodic profile that is congruent with the clarity, coherence and credibility of the Pakistani English broadcast discourse, thereby enriching the knowledge of prosody in Pakistani English broadcast discourse.

1. Introduction

The spread of English around the world has not resulted in a single uniform English language. In the areas where English has been adopted as a second language, English has developed into regionally distinct varieties influenced by the language and culture of those who use it. An example of such a language is Pakistani English (PakE). It is an institutionalized second-language English that is known to be characterized by systematic phonological, lexical, syntactic and pragmatic features that differentiate it from Inner Circle varieties like British and American English (Rahman, 1990; Baumgardner, 1993; Kachru, 1994). These characteristics are due to a continued exposure to Urdu, Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashto and other regional languages. However, despite this academic appreciation, there is one aspect of the communicative value of Pakistani English which is still not explored in terms of prosodic system and that is the system of prosody in this language.

Prosody refers to intonation, stress, rhythm, pitch, speed of speech, and pauses, and it is with these elements that the speaker structures and frames discourse, indicates boundaries between ideas, highlights information, and regulates listener

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participation (Ladd, 2008; Wennerstrom, 2001). The prosodic analysis is now possible by acoustic phonetics and is a key aspect of the research in sociophonetics, speech perception, and World Englishes research. Previous phonetic research on Pakistani English has yielded comprehensive descriptions of segmental phonological characteristics of the variety, such as the quality of vowels, the variation of consonants, rhoticity, and lexical stress and their systematic differences from the native-speaker norm in the light of the native language's phonological systems (Abbasi et al., 2024; Kashifa and Mahmood, 2023). The suprasegmental dimension, on the other hand, has garnered much less empirical treatment, and recent studies on Pakistani English phonology still highlight the fact that prosody is one of its least documented aspects (Jadoon & Ahmad, 2022; Sarwar and Abbasi, 2025).

Based on the available limited evidence, it can be concluded that Urdu prosodic structure has quite a significant effect on the realization of intonation, rhythm and stress in the Pakistani English. (Jabeen & Delais-Roussarie, 2020) showed acoustically how Urdu intonation influences the production of English intonation among Pakistani speakers, suggesting systematic cross-linguistic suprasegmental transfer. The analysis of the stress-timed/syllable-timed continuum through rhythm studies also shows that Pakistani English is a unique variant that is typologically affected by Urdu and other languages. The results emphasize the theoretical significance of the prosody of Pakistani English as well as the lack of knowledge surrounding it.

One focus of such investigation is the television news anchor. The prosodic dimensions of pitch, intensity, tempo, and pausing are deliberately manipulated in a professional broadcast speech to organize information, mark discourse boundaries and convey authority and credibility (Rodero & Cores-Sarría, 2021). News anchors are also highly visible models of language use; their speech patterns have an impact beyond the immediate situation of communication. However, though English language television news is on the rise in Pakistan, a full-scale acoustic examination of the speech of Pakistani English news anchor has not been carried out. The lack of this has resulted in a significant void in the phonological description of Pak English and in the general literature on prosodic variation in World Englishes research.

In the light of this gap, the present study aims at analysing the prosodic features of Pakistani English television news anchors using acoustic analysis of the broadcast samples of English news. The study examines a number of important parameters such as *F₀*, intensity, speech rate, duration and pausing, and sets up the first empirical baseline for the prosodic parameters of professional Pakistani English broadcast discourse, which would help in the field of sociophonetics, World Englishes research, and media discourse scholarship.

1.1. Problem Statement

While much work has been done on the segmental level of Pakistani English, little research has been conducted on its prosodic features, and these are not adequately documented. So far, the research has largely been concentrated on the areas of vowel quality, consonantal variation, and lexical stress, and the suprasegmental nature of language, such as intonation, pitch, rhythm, speech rate, intensity, and pausing has not been systematically acoustically analyzed among previous studies (Abbasi et al., 2018, 2024; Jadoon and Ahmad, 2022). This is a major deficit as prosody is not a by-product of communication. This aspect of spoken interaction is basic to the ways which it structures meanings, signals discourse organization, and portrays the professional identity of speakers (Ladd, 2008; Wennerstrom, 2001).

The situation is more critical regarding the field of professional speech. TV news anchor speech has no similar empirical study in Pakistan so far and is considered one of the most institutionalized and audience-oriented spoken style in all the languages of the world. Though English language news channels have become a growing phenomenon in Pakistan, there is no acoustic description of the prosodic features of this professional spoken variety, nor has the possible impact of the gender of the anchorperson or institutional context of broadcasting been analyzed as such. The lack of this makes it difficult not only to describe the phonological features of Pakistani variety of English but also to study the prosodic variation in professional media speech in broader World Englishes contexts (Abbasi et al., 2024). The present study bridges these gaps.

1.2. Research Objectives

- To set acoustically baseline values of *F₀*, intensity, speech rate and pausing for Pakistani English news anchor's speech.
- To analyze the differences in prosodic features based on the gender of the anchor.
- To Explore the prosodic decisions made in institutional broadcasting in the context of private and state media.

1.3. Research Questions

1. What is the baseline acoustic measurement of pitch, intensity, speech rate, and pausing in Pakistani English news anchor's speech?
2. To what extent do prosodic features differ between male and female news anchors?
3. What are the prosodic differences between the private and public media anchors in the institutional broadcasting environment?

1.4. Significance of the Study

The present study is a part of the ever-growing research on prosody, acoustic phonetics and Pakistani English where the present study focuses on the prosodic characteristics of Pakistani English news anchors. Though the segmental nature of Pakistani English has been studied extensively, very little research has been conducted on suprasegmental characteristics of Pakistani English, especially in the field of professional media discourse. The study fills the research gap in the prosodic characteristics of the broadcast news speech from pitch, intensity, speech rate and pausing pattern analysis, and the pitch pattern analysis results can be used to gain empirical insights into this field.

Theoretically, the study helps in understanding the prosodic variation in Pakistani English and in the fields of phonetics, sociophonetics and World Englishes (Baumgardner & Brown, 2020; Rahman, 2020). Methodologically, it shows the value of acoustic analysis for studying the patterns of speech in terms of objective measurement. The results can be practically applied to news anchors, broadcasters, communication trainers and news companies to determine prosodic features linked with the effective news delivery. In addition, the study offers a basis for future research on media discourse, broadcast speech and prosodic variation in Pakistani English which will help extend the research in the field of phonetics, linguistics and communication studies in general.

1.5. Limitations

The present study is based on a limited study of a sample of Pakistani English news anchors of selected English language TV news channels. The results may not be applicable or representative of other media settings or all Pakistani English speakers. In addition, the study does not explore other linguistic or paralinguistic aspects of speech except for prosodic features, these being pitch, intensity, speech rate, duration and pausing patterns. Analysis will be done on the basis of data from recorded broadcasts and may not represent the norms of institutional broadcasting and individual speaking style.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Prosody and Spoken Communication

Prosody is an essential component of speech and refers to such suprasegmental aspects as pitch, intonation, stress, rhythm, speech rate, and pausing. These are not only important for each individual speech sound, but for the creation of meaning, the organization of discourse, and effective communication. Prosodic elements allow an individual to stress certain information, express emotions and attitudes, signal discourse boundaries and facilitate the listener's interpretation of the speaker's message (Ladd, 2008). Prosody is thus deemed as a crucial aspect of speech production and comprehension.

Prosodic characteristics are examined acoustically, usually in terms of measurable characteristics, including fundamental frequency (Fo), intensity, duration, speech rate, and pausing patterns (Kamil et al., 2024). These sound markers can be used to measure objective aspects of the organization and production of spoken discourse. Studies have shown that listeners use prosodic information to recognize information prominence, sentence boundaries, speaker intentions and discourse organization (Wennerstrom, 2001). In addition, the application of prosody contributes to making the speech more intelligible, engaging and effective for the listener, which is very important in professional environments like broadcasting, public speaking and education. As a result, prosody has become a significant field of study in phonetics/phonology, sociophonetics, and communication studies, and the significance of prosody is increasingly explored in the analysis of various varieties of English and different communicative contexts.

2.2. Acoustic Analysis of Prosody

The advent of acoustic phonetics has changed the study of prosody because researchers could study prosody scientifically using objective measurements. Acoustic analysis is based on speech signal measurements, such as pitch, intensity, duration and

pausing patterns. Due to technological developments and the availability of speech analysis software like PRAAT, detailed analyses of prosodic behaviour in various languages and in various speech situations has been made possible.

F₀ is typically considered the main acoustic correlate of pitch, and is one of the most commonly investigated acoustic features when studying intonation and prominence in speech. The temporal organization can be provided in terms of duration and speech rate, while intensity can help enhance emphasis and prominence. Prosodic studies have been reviewed recently, and F₀, duration and intensity appear to be the most commonly used parameters in acoustic studies of speaking.

Acoustic approaches are especially useful because they offer empirical data that augment what is heard; they offer a way to reinforce auditory judgments. Acoustic measurements can reveal systematic patterns in speech behavior that are not reflected in the impressions of the hearer; they can also be used to make comparisons among speakers in different situations. As a result, acoustic phonetics has come to play a dominant role in prosodic research today.

2.3. Prosody in Broadcast News Speech

Broadcast news speech is a communicative text genre that is highly planned, highly trained, and highly audience oriented. News anchors should be clear, credible, neutral and engaging in delivering accurate information. For these purposes, broadcasters use unique prosodic strategies to mark news delivery from spontaneous conversation.

It has been discovered that the pitch, pausing, rhythm and speech rate of a professional broadcaster are carefully used to enhance audience understanding and attention. A significant study in this area was carried out by Nissen et al. (2020) which explored the pitch patterns of broadcast journalists. They concluded that professional news presenters use systematic pitch variation to help deliver the content and engage the audience. The study has shown that pitch is an important prosodic resource in the professional broadcasting and an effective aid to communication.

Similarly, Rodero and Cores-Sarría (2021) examined the importance of prosody in the presentation of audio news and concluded that the prosodic variation can have a significant effect on the cognitive processing of listeners and their engagement with the news content. The study recommended that prosodic parameters are important to be modulated properly to gain attention and to process information. The results confirm this argument as prosody is not just a way to decorate speech but an integral part of the process of the effective communication within news.

New research has also shown the importance of prosody in audience perception. Research shows that people tend to think of a professional, authoritative and credible speaker when they hear controlled pitch variation, the right speech rate, and appropriate pauses. Prosodic competence has thus become one of the salient features of effective broadcast communication and is given considerable focus in this study

2.4. Pakistani English and Acoustic Phonetic Research

In the context of World Englishes, Pakistani English is now acknowledged as an institutionalised variety of English language. The variety has been shaped by long-term interaction with English and some important phonological, lexical, grammatical and discourse properties. Modern scholarship acknowledges that Pakistani English is a valid and developing variety and an expression of Pakistan's multilingual and multicultural environment.

Although there is growing interest in Pakistani English by the scholars, most of the existing research has concentrated on the issues of lexical innovation, syntactic variation, sociolinguistic characteristics and segmental phonology. Comparatively limited acoustic phonetic studies are carried out. Recently, there have been studies on the acoustics of Pakistani speakers' English vowels and consonants and instrumental phonetic techniques have been shown to be effective in describing the phonological features of Pakistani English.

Likewise, the stress patterns, vowel production and phonetic variation of Pakistani speakers have been investigated acoustically recently. The studies have utilized acoustical measures, including pitch, duration and intensity, to scientifically and objectively describe speech characteristics. The results of their study are in line with the emerging relevance of acoustic phonetics in the study of Pakistani English.

These studies, although very valuable and useful for the understanding of English phonetics in Pakistan, are basically concerned with the segmental features, learner's speech or the study of isolated prosodic phenomena. There are very few studies that have looked at the prosodic features of professional Pakistanis speakers of English, especially in broadcast media.

2.5. Research Gap

Based on literature obtained, three gaps were identified. First, despite the abundance of studies on prosody in foreign news broadcasts, very little work has been done on English news broadcasts in Pakistan. Second, most of the existing work on Pakistani English has been on segmental phonology, lexical variation and sociolinguistic features and comparatively less has been done on suprasegmental aspects. Third, there exists a lack of extensive acoustic studies that look at how the news reading style of Pakistani English news anchors employ pitch, intensity, speech rate and pausing patterns during professional news reading.

It is important to note that, due to their important role as linguistic models and media communicators, there is a lack of empirical evidence on the prosodic behavior of news anchors in the literature. In light of this, the present study aims to ameliorate this through an acoustic study of the prosodic features used by the Pakistani English news anchors. The study will explore measurable acoustic parameters and contribute to the areas of acoustic phonetics, media discourse studies, sociophonetics and World Englishes.

3. Methodology

3.1. Research Design

The present study uses qualitative descriptive research design to explore the prosodic aspects used by the news anchors of Pakistani English. Qualitative research aims to understand and describe what is happening in the language within its natural environment and offers in-depth descriptions of how the language is being used (Creswell & Poth, 2016). The study aims at the discovery and delineation of pitch, intensity, speech rate and pausing patterns in professional news broadcast speech. While acoustic measurements are also used in analysing the results.

3.2. Theoretical Framework

The framework of Prosodic Phonology (Nespor and Vogel, 2007) along with the latest theories of intonational phonology (Ladd, 2008) is the basis of the study. Prosodic Phonology gives an account of the hierarchical organization of speech into prosodic units as well as suprasegmental features at various levels within the linguistic structure. The framework highlights the functions of pitch, stress, rhythm and pausing in the organization of oral discourse and in the communication of communicative meaning. Furthermore, the study is based on the Acoustic Phonetic Theory which takes the prosodic features as objective characteristics of speech. Prosody can be studied from the perspective of acoustic phonetics, including fundamental frequency (Fo), intensity, duration and temporal organisation (Johnson, 2011). The acoustic correlates are objective measures of prosodic behavior, and enable systematic study of spoken language. The theoretical framework is important especially for news broadcast as it is a domain that heavily uses prosodic variation for intelligibility, information structure and audience involvement. Thus, Prosodic Phonology serves as the conceptual framework to grasp the prosodic organization and Acoustic Phonetic Theory serves as the methodological framework to analyze the realization of prosodic organization in speech.

3.3. Data Collection

The data consist of four recorded news bulletins from English language news channels broadcasted by news anchors from Pakistan. Speech samples are selected purposively from publicly available broadcasts from YouTube. Recordings of good quality and with very little background noise are chosen for consistency. All the recordings are gathered, then transcribed into audio. Relevant segments with continuous news presentation are extracted so that detailed analysis of prosodic features can be done.

3.4. Research Instrument

The main research instrument in this research is PRAAT software developed by Boersma (2013) which is widely used software in phonetic and acoustic analysis. PRAAT allows researchers to view and analyse speech signals as spectrograms, waveforms, pitch contours and intensity displays. The software is used to recognize and analyze prosodic features such as:

- a) **Pitch (Fundamental Frequency/Fo):** Pitch is the acoustical measure of the lowness or highness of a speaker's voice (or sound) using fundamental frequency (Fo) in Hertz (Hz).
- b) **Intensity:** Intensity refers to the loudness or strength of a speech signal and is measured in decibels (dB).
- c) **Speech Rate:** Speech rate is the speed at which speech is produced, usually measured by the number of syllables or words spoken per unit of time.

- d) **Pauses:** Pausing patterns refer to the frequency, duration, and placement of pauses in speech.

PRAAT has been extensively employed in phonetic research due to its reliability, accuracy, and suitability for speech analysis (Boersma & Weenink, 2025).

4. Data Analysis

4.1. Analysis of Prosodic Features in Dawn News Male Anchor

The qualitative acoustic study of prosodic features used by a male news anchor of Dawn News in this section is presented. The analysis is done on a speech sample, which is analysed with PRAAT software (Boersma, 2013). The study is based on four main prosodic aspects (Johnson, 2011; Nespor & Vogel, 2007): pitch (fundamental frequency), intensity, speed of speech and pausing.

A news anchor's speaking style may be captured in a couple of different ways. The waveform displays their voice, the spectrogram decomposes their voice into various parts, and the intensity and pitch contours indicate their voice's loudness and pitch. Now if you compare all these pictures side by side, you will know how the anchor uses tone, volume and other things to keep people listening and make the news interesting. These are also essential acoustic attributes as it helps the anchor present the news in an interesting and comprehensible manner.



Figure 1. Prosodic Analysis of Dawn News English Male Anchor

Pitch (Fundamental Frequency)

There is some variation in pitch contour across the news bulletin. The blue pitch track shows a periodic modulation of basic frequency during speech production, which is controlled. These variations indicate that the anchor pitch variation is used to indicate information prominence and discourse boundaries. But the range of pitches is rather small and predictable, and broadcast news is a professional and formal manner of speech. Ladd (2008) states that this controlled pitch movement occurs in institutional genres of speech such as those in which clarity and credibility take precedence over emotional expressiveness.

Intensity

Moderate amplitude variations are indicated on the intensity contour (green line) throughout the recording. The overall intensity is often associated with prominent segments of the text from an acoustic point of view, suggesting that the use of vocal emphasis is used to mark key information. The overall intensity pattern is relatively stable throughout the bulletin, indicating the anchor's attempt to provide an authoritative and impartial delivery style. There is previous research that indicates that listeners' understanding and listener's perception of professionalism is linked to consistency of intensity in broadcast communication (Johnson, 2011).

Speech Rate

Waveform and spectrogram show a well-regulated speech rate. Speech segments are evenly distributed, with no over- or under-accentuating or over- or under-slowness. The anchor keeps the pace of the story to allow the relevant information to be clearly conveyed whilst keeping the flow of the news bulletin. The controlled speech rate is a characteristic feature of professional broadcasting because it helps listeners to understand the message and process information (Rodero & Cores-Sarría, 2021).

Pausing Patterns

The waveform shows that there are multiple pauses throughout the speech sample. These pauses are not inserted randomly between phrases and information units, but are placed strategically. The pausing behavior indicates that the anchor is using pauses in between to mark discourse levels, to structure the content and to give listeners enough processing time. Studies have indicated that pauses serve a crucial function in the organization of spoken discourse and increase the intelligibility of professional speaking situations (Wennerstrom, 2001).

Overall Prosodic Profile

Based on the acoustic analysis, the news anchor male of Dawn has a professional prosodic style, which is noted by his controlled pitch variation, stability in voice level, moderate speech rate and strategic pausing. These intonational features contribute to the clarity, authority and appropriateness in broadcast communication. The patterns observed are congruent with previous studies which have shown that professional news presenters make systematic prosodic changes to make the communication effective and engaging to listeners (Nissen et al., 2020; Rodero & Cores-Sarria, 2021).

Overall, it is concluded that prosody is an important communication tool in the news broadcasting of Pakistani English. The news anchor uses pitch, intensity, speech rate and pauses in a coordinated manner to effectively structure information and maintain a professional broadcasting style.

4.2. Analysis of Prosodic Features in Dawn News Female Anchor

This section provides a qualitative acoustic study of the prosodic features used by a female news anchor from Dawn News. Four prosodic features (pitch, intensity, speech rate and pausing patterns) were analyzed using the software PRAAT (Boersma, 2013).

The PRAAT display shows the spectrogram, the waveform and the pitch contour and the intensity contour, so that one can look in detail at the speech patterns of the anchor. These acoustic representations reveal the importance of prosodic resources in the successful delivery of news and broadcasting performance in a professional context.

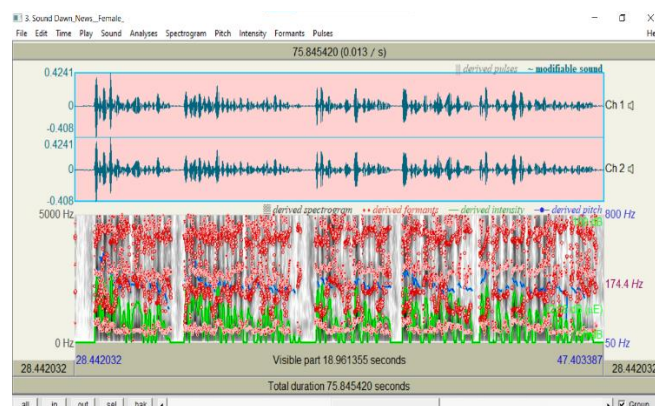


Figure 2. Prosodic Analysis of Dawn News English Female Anchor

Pitch (Fundamental Frequency)

There is a lot of variation in the pitch contour across the news bulletin. The female anchor pitch range is relatively high compared to the male anchor, likely because of physiological differences in vocal fold structure that results in females' speech production having a higher pitch range (Johnson, 2011). The pitch track fluctuates often, suggesting modalities of f_0 variations that are used to signal information prominence and discourse structure. Despite these differences, the overall structure of pitches is relatively organized and predictable, and the style is professional, rhetorical and formal, as appropriate for broadcast journalism. According to Ladd (2008) controlled pitch variation helps to give coherence and intelligibility in institutional speech situations.

Intensity

Recordings show moderate changes to the intensity contour throughout the recording. In the case of increased intensity, there are significant lexical items and information sections, indicating the intentional highlighting by the anchor. The overall intensity is fairly consistent, indicating that the speaker is in good vocal control and delivery. This type of evenness has been observed often in broadcast news programs in which the clarity and understanding of the broadcast are crucial (Ladefoged & Johnson, 2015).

Speech Rate

The news bulletin has a consistent and well-controlled speech rate throughout including in the wave form and the spectrogram. The anchor's rate is appropriate with the information being clearly understood without interrupting the flow of the speech. There is no over acceleration or abrupt slowing which would be noticed, representing high amount of professional speech management. Previous studies have demonstrated that speech rate has an impact on information understanding and efficient processing in news broadcasts (Rodero & Cores-Sarria, 2021).

Pausing Patterns

There are several breaks in the speech sample. The pauses are primarily at the beginning and end of phrases and information units, which indicates the organization role of the pauses. The pauses appear to be not hesitating, but rather for communicative purposes, in order to give the listener a better understanding of the information. Wennerstrom (2001) argues that strategic pausing is an important part of prosodic organization and plays an important role in the effectiveness of spoken discourse.

Overall Prosodic Profile

Based on the analysis of the acoustic characteristics of the anchor's speech style in the Dawn News, the female anchor has a relatively wide pitch contour, relatively stable intensity contour, relatively controlled speech rate and uses controlled pauses in a strategic way. Overall, these prosodic features help to create a clear, coherent and authoritative news style. The results show patterns consistent with previous research that professionals use systematic prosodic variation to engage their listeners and deliver information effectively (Nissen et al., 2020; Rodero & Cores-Sarria, 2021).

Overall, the analysis has shown that prosody is a significant communicative tool in the news broadcast of Pakistani English. The female news anchor uses coordinated cues of pitch, intensity, speech rate and pauses to organize information and to maintain professionalism that is associated with broadcast journalism.

4.3. Analysis of Prosodic Features in PTV World Male Anchor

This section is a qualitative analysis of the prosodic features used by a male news anchor of PTV World. The analysis is done on the speech sample analyzed with software PRAAT (Boersma, 2013). The analysis of the study is based on the theoretical approach of Acoustic Phonetics (Johnson, 2011) and Prosodic Phonology (Nespor & Vogel, 2007) which looks at four major prosodic features; Pitch (Fo), Intensity, Rate and Pausing Patterns.

The PRAAT display is comprised of a spectrogram, intensity contour, pitch contour, and a waveform, that together give insight into the anchor's speech production. The following acoustic aspects show the role of prosody in an effective communication and in a professional news presentation.



Figure 3. Prosodic Analysis of PTV World Male Anchor

Pitch (Fundamental Frequency)

Moderate pitch fluctuations with pitch contour in speech sample #16. Changes in information structure and emphasis are indicated by controlled rises and falls that correspond to the blue pitch track. The pitch variation is seen, giving evidence of the anchor skilfully using pitch to captivate the audience and highlight points. The overall range of pitches is small, though, and the style of the piece is formal and authoritative – very much typical of formal news broadcast. The characteristic of the speech of institutions is also the controlled pitch variation, which is essential to make it clearer and at the same time to give it the credibility of the speaker (Ladd, 2008).

Intensity

The intensity contour (green line) indicates the relationships of the intensity of the recording throughout, with some peaks indicating strong focus on words and phrases. The anchor's voice is fairly consistent in volume during the news bulletin, which also helps to improve the clarity of their voice and understanding to the listener. When the intensity is even and consistent, the voice is professional, which is conducive to conveying information. Such patterns of intensity are very common in broadcast speech, in which listeners are required to pay attention (Ladefoged & Johnson, 2015).

Speech Rate

The shape of the waveform is sinusoidal, indicating a smooth and controlled speech rate. There is a high density of speech segments, which suggests that there is a higher continuity of information and fewer interruptions. The speed of the anchor's speech is appropriate and demonstrates good professional delivery, effectively conveying information. The controlled speech rate conveys the characteristics of broadcast journalism where information needs to be transmitted clearly in a limited time period. According to Rodero & Cores-Sarría (2021), the right speed of speech delivery is one of the many factors that influences listeners' understanding and receptivity when delivering a news item.

Pausing Patterns

The waveform shows that there are a number of pauses strategically placed at key points in the recording. These pauses tend to be located at syntactic and discourse boundaries and seem to be used to mark information boundaries and to help listeners process. No hesitations are found during the pauses, which seem purposeful rather than hesitant, indicating the professional control of speech organization by the anchor. Wennerstrom (2001) suggests that pause is a crucial prosodic resource that plays a role in making discourse coherent and successful in communication.

Overall Prosodic Profile

The acoustics shows that the male anchor used by the PTV World is a professional prosodic style with controlled pitch variations, consistent intensity level, fluent speech and controlled pausing pattern. These elements combine to create an authoritative, coherent, and international news broadcasting delivery style. The findings of the prosodic features are consistent with other studies indicating that professional news presenters use systematic prosodic variation to enhance successful communication and audience attention (Nissen et al., 2020).

In general, the results show that prosody is an important communicative tool used in the broadcast of PTV World news. Structuring information, clarity and maintaining the professional standards of broadcast journalism is accomplished through the coordinated use of pitch, intensity, speech rate and pauses, by the anchor.

4.4. Analysis of Prosodic Features in PTV World Female Anchor

This is a qualitative acoustic study of the pro-sodic features used by one female news anchor of PTV World. The speech sample was analysed by PRAAT software (Boersma, 2013) to investigate four aspects of prosody: pitch (Fo), intensity, rate, and pausing. The analysis is based on the principles of Acoustic Phonetics (Johnson, 2011) and Prosodic Phonology (Nespor & Vogel, 2007) which focus on the importance of suprasegmental properties in organising spoken discourse and in achieving communicative effectiveness.

The PRAAT display shows you the waveform, spectrogram, pitch contour and intensity contour, which are ways to show visually how the anchor made their speech. These sound characteristics show the importance of prosody in the successful creation and production of a news broadcast and professional broadcasting.

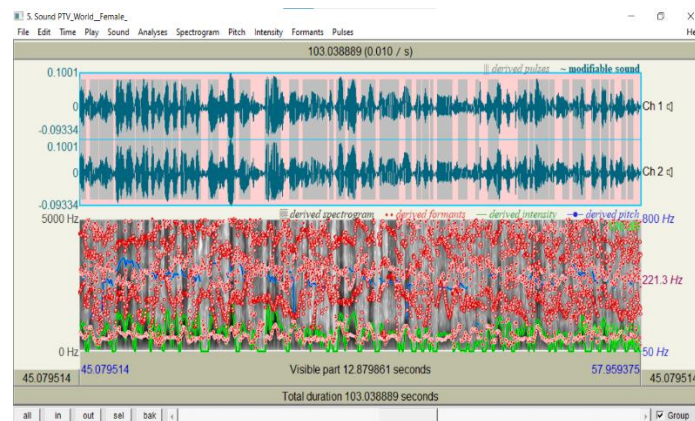


Figure 4. Prosodic Analysis of PTV World Female Anchor

Pitch (Fundamental Frequency)

The pitch contour in the speech sample has noticeable change. The blue pitch track has many pitches rises and falls, indicating high fundamental frequency modulation in the news delivery process. As in speech, the male anchors mentioned above deviate from the female anchor, which has the far greater pitch span in speech. The pitch range is relatively big but it is controlled and systematic, suggesting deliberate pitch change to emphasize and attract listeners' attention. Ladd (2008) suggests that such pitch change is used for discourse organization and information prominence in professional discourse.

Intensity

Moderate fluctuations during the recording are shown by the intensity contour. Major information units and accented lexical items correspond with intensity peaks. The anchor has a fairly consistent amount of energy in their voice level throughout the news bulletin, demonstrating professional voice control and consistency of delivery. This even intensity pattern helps to make speech intelligible, and to effectively communicate news content. A few earlier studies have reported the importance of controlled intensity in professional broadcasting as it helps to make the speech more intelligible and more engaging for listeners (Ladefoged & Johnson, 2015).

Speech Rate

In the recording, speech is fluent, appears to have been produced at a well-regulated rate. Speech segments seem to be evenly distributed- it could mean information flows consistently and well organized. The anchor speaks at a pace that is comfortable for the listeners to digest while including efficiency, which is needing in news broadcasting. The realizations of the observed speech rate are that guidance from broadcast journalism of professionalism were time and clarity otherwise coincide with each other. Rodero & Cores-Sarría (2021) notes that an adequate speech rate helps the audience to understand what is proposed and thus be able to transmit information properly.

Pausing Patterns

As you can see this waveform is cropped from a speech sample, and emphasizes the breaks that were padded to the speech sample. These pauses tend to be at syntactic and discourse level boundaries, implying that they function as information structure cues or as aids for listener understanding. These pauses appear to be deliberate and rehearsed, but hesitation/disfluency is another matter. The use of pauses to help the coherence of the discourse and allow listeners to digest information. Wennerstrom (2001) says pausing is a basic prosodic resource that is a structural and linguistic component of the structure of spoken discourse.

Overall Prosodic Profile

The outcome of the acoustic analysis confirms that the female anchor of PTV World uses a professional prosodic style with a relatively wide pitch range, moderate pitch level (high intensity), consistent pitch and even rate of articulation, and pauses. Altogether these components are central to a clear, coherent and authoritative style of hard news writing. Notice that the general patterns are all in line with past findings showing professional broadcasters use systematic prosodic variation to make clearer communication to a larger audience (Nissen et al., 2020; Rodero & Cores-Sarría, 2021).

The main points derived from these findings suggest that prosody has a function as the communicative resource in PTV World broadcasting news. The anchor skillfully uses pitch, intensity, speech rate and pausing patterns to display organization, engage the listeners with dynamic delivery of information required in broadcast journalism.

5. Findings and Conclusion

The study of speech samples from Dawn News and PTV World shows both similarities and differences in how Pakistani English news anchors use speech patterns. The results show that all anchors use pitch, intensity, speech rate and pause patterns. The way they use them varies by gender and broadcasting style. Pitch or fundamental frequency, goes up and down in a pattern. Female anchors have pitch ranges than male anchors. Male anchors have more steady pitch while the female anchor from PTV World has the most variation in pitch. This difference is due to the way men and women produce sound and is consistent with research findings that women tend to talk at a higher pitch than men. All anchors have pitch variation to convey information and to make their message clear. These findings support the idea that pitch variation's important for getting your point across and organizing information as claimed by Ladd in 2008. A study of the study of speech pattern of news anchors in news bulletin of Pakistani English revealed that pitch is playing an important role in communication.

When delivering information, the use of pitch, intensity, speech rate and pause patterns is very significant for anchors. It's clear that you can hear a difference between the volume of the anchor's voice. Like good professional trainers, all anchors make an effort to keep their voice at a more level pitch. Female anchors are more likely than male anchors to speak more softly or more loudly when delivering news regarding major events or important information. Male anchors on the hand tend to speak at a more even level throughout the broadcast. This shows that they are following the rules of broadcasting which say that speech should be clear and easy to understand, as Ladefoged and Johnson said in 2015.

When we look closer, we can see that anchors also speak at speeds. All anchors speak clearly. At a pace that is easy to follow. Anchors from PTV World tend to speak more continuously without stopping as much which makes their delivery sound smoother. Anchors from Dawn News however tend to speak in segments with clearer breaks between different pieces of information. This might be because of the style of the TV station they work for or because of their personal way of speaking. It does not seem to be because one group of anchors is better, at communicating than the other. Rodero & Cores-Sarría found something in 2021 and said that professional broadcasters adjust how fast they speak based on what their audience expects and what kind of information they are giving.

When we look at how the anchors paused, we see that they all did it differently. All of the speakers used pauses to separate their thoughts to show when they were moving on to a topic and to help the people listening understand what they were saying. The anchors on Dawn News paused more often which made their delivery sound slower and more broken up. On the hand the anchors on PTV World paused less often but when they did they would talk for a long time without stopping, which made their presentation sound smoother. This is similar to what Wennerstrom found in 2001 that pauses help to organize what we are saying and make it easier for people to understand.

Even though the anchors had styles there were some things that they all did. The way they spoke was always controlled, with a tone and volume and they spoke at a moderate pace pausing on purpose. These things that they all had in common suggest that there is a way that professional news anchors are supposed to sound when they are speaking English in Pakistan. No matter which channel they were on or whether they were a man or a woman the anchors all tried to use the sound of their voice to make themselves clear to sound like they knew what they were talking about and to keep the people listening interested, in what they were saying.

The results of this study are similar to what other people have found out about broadcast journalism. They show that news presenters use tones and ways of speaking to get their message across. This is what Nissen and other people found out in 2020. The similarities we saw in our study also show that Pakistani English news broadcasters do things in a way that is accepted around the world. At the time they also do things a little differently depending on who they are and what institution they work for.

Overall, the study found that the main differences between Pakistani English news broadcasts are in how much the pitch of the voice goes down how loud or soft the voice is, how fast or slow the person talks and how often they pause. Even with these differences the news broadcasts still follow some basic rules that make sure people can understand what is being said that the message makes sense and that the person speaking sounds trustworthy. So, the study shows that the way Pakistani English news anchors speak is very important, for getting their message across keeping people's attention and doing their job well.

Pakistani English news anchors use prosody to structure the information they are giving to keep people listening and to do their job in a way that's professional.

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