Uptalk

The Phenomenon of Rising Intonation

Paul Warren

School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies Victoria University of Wellington



Contents

	List of figures List of tables		page x
			xii
	Prefa		xiii
	Acknowledgements		xv
		f symbols and abbreviations	xvi
1	Introduction – why 'uptalk'?		1
	1.1	Defining uptalk	1
	1.2	Labels	4
	1.3	The forms and functions of intonation	7
	1.4	Methodological considerations	18
2	The forms of uptalk		20
	2.1	Comparison with other sentence types	21
	2.2	Uptalk shapes	31
	2.3	Pitch levels	33
	2.4	Temporal aspects	36
	2.5	Phonological analyses	40
	2.6	Summary	46
3	The meanings and functions of uptalk		47
		The downside of uptalk	51
		The upside of uptalk	54
	3.3	Interactional functions	56
	3.4	Multiple functions	66
	3.5	Summary	67
4	Uptalk in English varieties		69
	4.1		70
	4.2	New Zealand English	74
	4.3	Pacific English varieties	77
	4.4	Canadian English	78
	4.5	United States English	80
	4.6	Caribbean English varieties	84
	4.7	British English	85
	4.8	Irish English	90
	4.9	Falkland Islands English	92

viii	Contents
ATTT	Contents

	4.10	South African English	92
		New Englishes	94
	4.12	Non-native speaker English	94
	4.13	Summary	96
5	Origin	as and spread of uptalk	97
	5.1	Historical and geographic origins	99
	5.2	(Im)migration	102
	5.3	Origins within the intonational system	103
	5.4	Tags and uptalk	106
	5.5	Summary	110
6	Socia	and stylistic variation in uptalk use	111
	6.1	Speaker sex	111
		Sexual orientation	115
		Age	116
		Ethnicity	119
		Socioeconomic grouping	122
		Text types	124
	6.7	Summary	127
7		bility killer and conversational anthrax: uptalk in the media	129
		Opinion pieces	131
		Letters	141
		Advice columns	143
		Profiles	145
		Reviews	146
		Popular culture	147
	7.7	Summary	148
8		ption studies of uptalk	150
	8.1	Perception of high-rise forms	150
	8.2	Attitudinal studies of uptalk	156
	8.3	The influence of speaker and listener factors on uptalk perception	160
	8.4	Summary	162
9	Uptal	k in other languages	163
	9.1	Germanic languages	163
	9.2	Romance languages	165
		Japanese	166
		Arabic languages	168
		Austronesian languages	168
		Other languages	169
	9.7	Summary	169
10	Meth	odology in uptalk research	171
		Language samples	171 .
	10.2	Speaking tasks	174
	10.3	Perceptual tasks	180
	10.4	Speech analysis types	181
	10.5	Counting uptalk	184
	10.6	Summary	185

Contents	ix
11 Summary and prospect	187
11.1 What is uptalk?	187
11.2 Where has uptalk come from?	190
11.3 What does the future hold for uptalk?	191
References	192
Index	218