

Toward an Acoustic Description of Faroese long and short Monophthongs



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Ískoyti til eina ljóðfrøðiliga lýsing av longum og stuttum einljóðum í føroyskum

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to examine and compare the monophthongs of the Faroese dialects of Norðurstreymoy, Eysturoy, Vágur (North-West Faroese), Klaksvík (North-East Faroese), Tórshavn (Central Faroese), and Suðuroy (Southern Faroese) as produced by 25 female and 16 male speakers auditorily and acoustically. The analysis focuses on stressed monophthongs embedded in nonsense words. Target vowels were presented orthographically in the frame **bVb** for long vos and **bVbb** for short vowels. The **bVb(b)** nonsense words were inserted into the carrier sentence *Eg sigi orðið ___ nú* 'I say the word ___ now'. Acoustic measurements are carried out using Praat.

Úrtak

Endamálið við hesi kanning er at kanna og bera saman einljóðini í málførunum í Norðurstreymoy, Eysturoy, Vágum (útnyrðingsføroyskt), Klaksvík (landnyrdingsføroyskt), Tórshavn (miðføroyskt) og Suðuroy (suðurføroyskt), soleiðis sum tey eru borin fram av 41 heimildarfólkum (25 kvinnum, 16 monnum). Dentur er lagdur á einljóðini í herðingarsterkari støðu í tvætliorðunum **bVb** fyri long sjálvljóð og **bVbb** fyri stutt sjálvljóð. Hesi "orð" vórðu sett inn í setningin *Eg sigi orðið ___ nú*, sum heimildarfólkini skuldu lesa tríggar ferðir. Ljóðfrøðiligar mátingar vórðu síðani gjørdar við forritinum *Praat*.

Keywords: Faroese monophthongs, dialects, acoustics analysis.

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Lyklaorð: Føroysk einljóð, málføri, ljóðfrøðilig greining.

Introduction

This article provides an acoustic analysis of Faroese long and short monophthongs in stressed positions, based on data from 25 female speakers and 16 male speakers. The study focuses on four dialectal regions: the Northwest dialect, the Northeast dialect, Central Faroese, and the Southern dialect. It contributes to the relatively limited body of research on Faroese phonetics and dialect variation. To our knowledge, only a few studies on Faroese vowels currently exist: Rischel (1964), Petersen (2000) (also cited in Árnason 2011), Petersen & Rakow (published in Petersen 2010, p. 314), and the more recent work of Jørgensen (in Petersen & Voeltzel, 2025, p. 196–197).

The monophthongs of Faroese are presented here as a single system that applies across all dialects,³ following Petersen & Voeltzel (2025, p. 11). Vowels borrowed from Danish are shown in parentheses and are not included in this study.

	front			mid			back		
	unrounded		rounded	unrounded	unrounded	rounded		rounded	
	long	short	long	short	long	short	long	short	
close	i:		(y:)				u:		
close-mid	e:	ɪ	ø:	ɤ			o:	ʊ	
open-mid		ɛ		œ				ɔ	
open					(a:)	a			

Figure 1. Monophthongs in Faroese.

Faroese monophthongs are long or short⁴ and there is usually a difference in quality between the short and long variants; the short variants are more centralized and laxer.

Typologically, the Faroese vowel system aligns closely with the North-West European Sprachbund, characterized by the presence of prominent front rounded vowel(s) (Benediktsson, 1959; 1972). Short [ɤ] is in a few native words like [ɣlvuɪ] *úlvur* ‘wolf’, and in loans like [m'ɣstɪst] *mystiskt* ‘mythical’. Short [a]

³ There exist minor dialectal variations. For example, in Suðuroy—the southernmost island—the vowel /ø/ has shifted to [ɤ] in villages south of Hvalba (e.g., [pɣtn] *børn* ‘children’) (Vestergaard, 1983, p. 8). Other minor differences occur in specific contexts, such as before *-ang/-ank*, but these are not relevant to the measurements discussed in this paper and will therefore not be addressed further. Readers are referred to Petersen and Voeltzel (2025, ch. 4) for more details.

⁴ In Faroese, stressed syllables are heavy (STRESS-TO-WEIGHT), meaning that they either have a long vowel (V:), or a short vowel followed by two consonants (VCC).

is only in front of CC, [patn] barn ‘child’. Faroese lacks peripheral low long monophthongs. The older Faroese sound */æ:/ changed into the diphthong [ɛa:] ⟨a, æ⟩, when long, [a] when short, and */ɔ:/ changed to the diphthong [ɔɑ:] ⟨á⟩ when long, [ɔ] when short (Skomedal, 1969; Petersen & Voeltzel 2025, p. 85–86).

A symmetrical system of 4 long peripheral monophthongs and a subsystem of 4 short in pairs, /i, u/, /e, o/ like the Faroese system is universally very common. What is also common is that it has /i/ and /u/ among the peripheral monophthongs (Crothers, 1978).

The Faroese language system follows the tendency that vowel inventories are structured in a manner that enhances contrast, by maximally dispersing vowels in the auditory-perceptual space. Inventories tend to spread their vowels along the periphery of the acoustic and perceptual space. Support comes from the fact that a phonological front-back contrast tend to be absent in low vowels, i.e. precisely where the acoustic correlate of this contrast (F2 difference) is smallest and that non-peripheral vowels, with intermediate F2 frequencies, tend to appear between front unrounded (high F2) and back rounded vowels (low F2) in the higher regions of the acoustic space, where the range of F2 frequencies is greatest (Liljencrants and Lindblom (1972). Vowel qualities are adaptive, that is, minimal structural changes in the inventory may cause the arrangement of vowels in the inventory to be less dispersed, and so vowels have to shift and assume new positions to maximize dispersion.

One characteristic of Faroese is that it has many diphthongs, and the monophthongs are in fact often diphthongs, where they glide towards a more open second part (Jakobsen, 1891; Rischel, 1961, 1964). Rischel (1961) transcribed the closed vowels as having the variant pronunciation [i:j] ⟨i, y⟩ and [u:w] ⟨u⟩. Petersen & Voeltzel (2025, p. 176–177) transcribe the mid vowels as [e:], [ø:], and [o:], when monophthongs, and the diphthongized pronunciation as [eɛ:] ⟨e⟩, [øœ:] ⟨ø⟩, and [oo:] ⟨o⟩. We observe that diphthongization of these monophthongs does occur, as noted by Rischel and others; however, it does not consistently follow the same pattern, varying both across speakers and within individual speakers.

Rischel (1964) provides a partial acoustic description of Faroese monophthongs, highlighting a clear phonetic distinction in quality between long and short vowel pairs. The short vowels tend to be more centralized and laxer compared to their long counterparts. Similar acoustic findings are reported by Petersen (2000, p. 40) for a male speaker from Vágur (see also Petersen & Voeltzel 2025, p. 192–202), as well as by Rakow and Petersen, whose study (printed in Petersen 2010, p. 314) involved three middle-aged male informants reading nonsense words bVb(b) in the sentences eg sigi orðið bVb nú and eg sigi orðið bVbb nú (‘I say the word B now’). Jørgensen’s study of five middle-aged speakers, who produced the same nonsense words, is presented in Petersen & Voeltzel (2025, p. 197) and confirms a clear distinction between tense and lax vowels.

In this study, we want to expand on existing work on Faroese vowel acoustics, but also look at them auditorily, by including more speakers of both sexes from different dialects. We find that the most effective way to describe vowels is not by articulatory characteristics, but by their acoustic properties—specifically, by measuring the formant frequencies F1, F2, and F3. A formant is defined as a broad spectral peak resulting from an acoustic resonance in the human vocal tract. F1 corresponds to vowel height, F2 to frontness or backness and rounding, and F3 is often associated with lip rounding.

Systematic differences between male and female speakers are expected. Female speakers generally have higher fundamental frequency (F0) and formant values than males, a pattern observed across languages. Women also tend to exhibit larger vowel spaces, even when measurements are plotted on logarithmic scales. Explanations for this phenomenon have focused on physiological factors (Simpson, 2001, 2002; Whiteside, 2009), as well as on perceptual theories. For instance, it has been proposed that men reduce their F1 space because male F1 values are more easily discriminable by listeners than those of females (Goldstein, 1980; Ryalls & Lieberman, 1982; Diehl et al., 1996).

In this study we take our departure in the description shown above and we want to see how the vowels are dispersed in the acoustic space. We look for eventual differences between men and women, the different dialects, size of vowel spaces and compares with Rischel's measurements from 1964. It is a contribution to the relatively limited body of research on Faroese phonetics and dialect variation, and the study includes a higher number of speakers from the different dialect areas.

Metod

All recordings were made using Audacity on a computer in a quiet office environment, with a microphone placed in front of the speaker. The target vowels were presented orthographically as ⟨i, e, ø, u, o, a/æ, ei, ey, oy, ú, ó, á⟩,⁵ embedded in nonsense words of the form *bVb* (for long vowels) and *bVbb* (for short vowels), within the carrier sentence: *eg sigi orðið bVb nú* and *eg sigi orðið bVbb nú* ('I say the word bVb(b) now'). The nonsense words occupied a stressed position in the sentence.

This design aims to minimize consonantal influence on the vowels, ensuring more consistent acoustic analysis. The use of the ⟨b⟩-consonant, realized phonetically as the voiceless [p], follows descriptions in Petersen & Voeltzel (2025, p. 282), Thráinsson et al. (2012, p. 42) and Árnason (2011).

Participants were given sentences on paper, along with an explanation of the distinction between single and double consonants. Each nonsense word was read three times in randomized order. This repetition ensured that at least one

⁵ We will present our findings on the diphthongs in another study.

usable token of each vowel would be available—even in the case of participant errors — and allowed for the analysis of intra-speaker variation. The mean value of the three tokens was used.

The monophthongs were analysed auditorily using IPA symbols. To determine the F1 and F2 values of each vowel token, the computer program PRAAT was employed. Measurements were taken at three points within each vowel: at 20%, 50%, and 80% of its duration. The mean was taken of the three values for each.⁶ Sometimes no measurements or only one or two measurements could be taken of the acoustic spectrogram. The values for each vowel were averaged to produce a mean for each dialect area. Variation was observed across both individual speakers and dialects. To enable comparison between male and female speakers, Bark-scale normalization is being used.

Participants

To obtain relatively homogeneous dialect groups, most of the participants were chosen to be younger and adults between the ages of 19 and 40 years old and under education. Only 9 were above the age of 40 and up to 64 and university people. All in all, there were 41 participants distributed on the different dialect areas: 16 men and 25 women. The north-eastern part of the islands is only represented by Klaksvík and women. It was easier to find women than men who would participate. Suðuroy is only represented by 3 speakers, but a later study will look closer at that region. The original plan was to get an equal number of participants, but the study was done in Tórshavn, so most people came from Tórshavn. Most of the participants were gathered at Tórshavn

Place	Men	Women
Tórshavn (Trsh.)	8	8
Eysturoy (Ey.)	5	6
Norðurstreymoy (Nstr.)	1	4
Vágar (Vá.)	1	2
Klaksvík (Klv.)	0	4
Suðuroy (Su.)	1	1
Sum:	16	25

Figure 2. Participants in the study. They were all born and raised in the area. The women had a mean age of 31,5 years and the men a mean age of 38,3 years.

⁶ We have included the diphthong [ɛa:], which has the short variant [a]. All three measurements are included with the diphthong.

Results and analysis

This section reports the results and analysis of vowel pronunciation for women and men, followed by a comparison between the two sexes.

Female speakers

The results for the female participants are shown in Table 1 and cover six areas: Eysturoy (Ey.), Norðurstreymoy (Nstr.), Tórshavn (Trsh.), Vágar (Vá.), Suðuroy (Su.), and Klaksvík (Klv.).

	Ey.		NStr.		Trsh.		Vá.	
	F2	F1	F2	F1	F2	F1	F2	F1
[i:]	2451	458	1957	352	2352	377	2576	383
[e:]	2102	505	2051	482	2045	530	2120	560
[ø:]	1496	488	1475	448	1513	514	1616	473
[u:]	727	357	791	465	828	411	782	401
[o:]	825	439	842	469	852	520	732	478
[ɛa:]	1904	571	1944	581	2059	593	2048	609
	1858	740	1871	740	1890	770	2023	708
	1402	800	1470	884	1472	786	1659	682
[ɪ]	2106	427	1900	400	2284	407	2080	428
[ɛ]	1971	588	1851	648	1940	599	1924	612
[œ]	1446	568	1488	563	1526	589	1543	575
[ʊ]	760	405	879	441	863	436	913	465
[ɔ]	943	538	926	549	957	545	1017	589
[a]	1362	783	1425	830	1325	772	1375	786
	Su.		Klv.					
	F2	F1	F2	F1				
[i:]	2480	333	2253	361				
[e:]	2041	528	2048	623				
[ø:]	1475	448	1630	536				
[u:]	710	389	875	459				
[o:]	958	543	916	550				
[ɛa:]			2172	651				
			1645	835				
			1480	827				

[i]	2062	396	2280	477
[ɛ]	1854	600	2095	660
[œ]	1507	574	1607	595
[u]	837	404	849	470
[ɔ]	958	543	985	563
[a]	1268	765	1425	830

Table 1. The results from female speakers.

Table 2 shows the mean values calculated across all female speakers.

Mean	F2	F1
[i:]	2345	377
[e:]	2068	538
[ø:]	1534	485
[u:]	786	414
[o:]	854	500
[ɛa:]	2025	601
	1857	1759
	1497	796
[i]	2119	423
[ɛ]	1939	618
[œ]	1520	577
[u]	850	437
[ɔ]	964	555
[a]	1363	794

Table 2. Mean number, female speakers.

The vowel chart for long monophthongs, based on mean values, is presented in Figure 3.

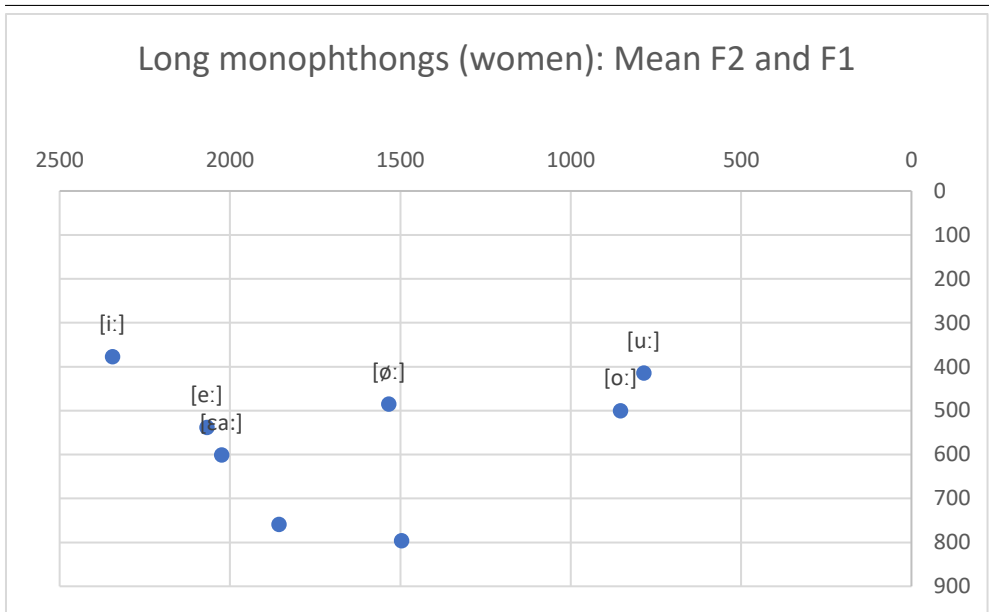


Figure 3. Long vowels as spoken by women. We have included [æ:], which has the short variant [a]. All three measurements are included with the diphthong.

The short monophthongs are presented in figure 4:

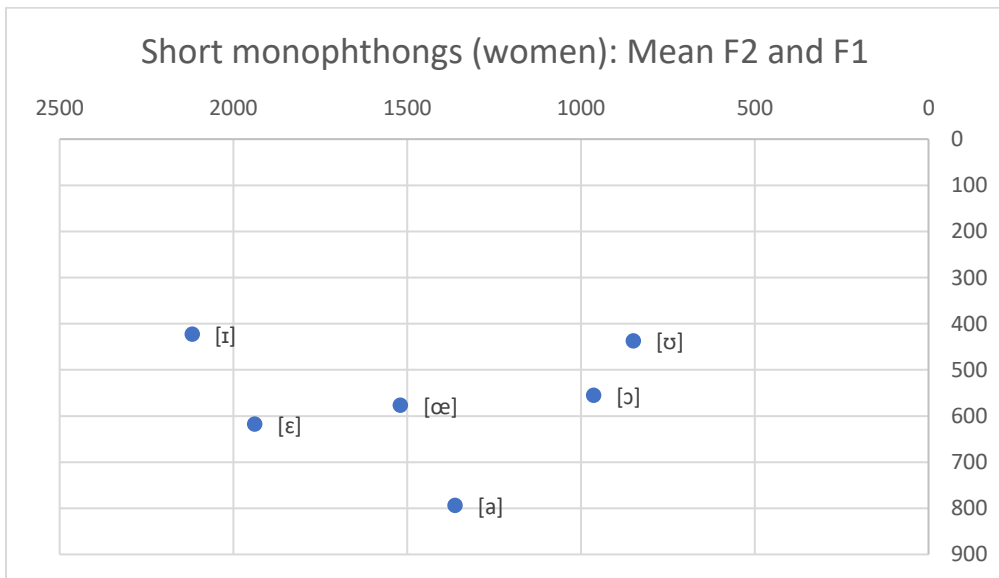


Figure 4. Short vowels as spoken by women.

Figure 3 shows that the back vowels appear slightly closer together than the front vowels, a pattern also observed with short vowels in figure 4. The low vowel [a] is articulated further back than the central [œ], but more front than [ʊ]

and [ɔ] allowing it to be classified as a mid-vowel, as is done in Figure 1. Recall that short [a] appears in native words in front of CC only, [altuɪ] *aldur* ‘age’.

The combined distribution of long and short vowels is illustrated in Figure 5.

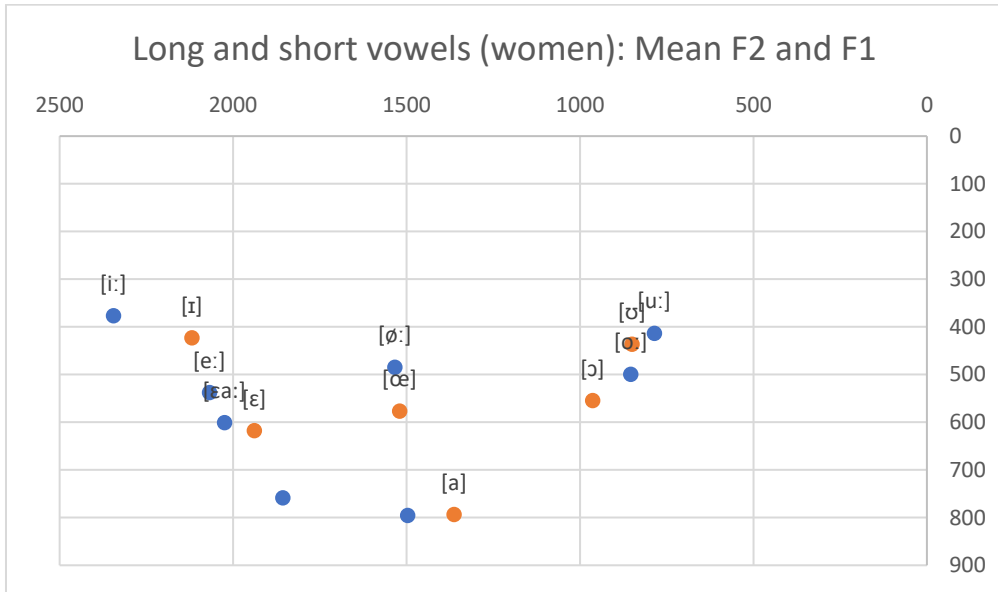


Figure 5. Long and short vowels spoken by women from 6 areas. Long (blue dots), short (orange dots).

As demonstrated in previous studies and through auditory descriptions of Faroese, short vowels are lax in contrast to the tense long vowels. This laxness is evident in the fact that short monophthongs are more centralized and lower than their long counterparts. Figure 6 illustrates a distinction of four degrees of openness, as noted by Rischel (1964, p. 112). Rischel includes the diphthong [ɛa:] and its short counterpart [a], which appear in pairs like *maður*-NOM.SG [mɛa:vuɪ] ~ *mann*-ACC.SG. [man:].

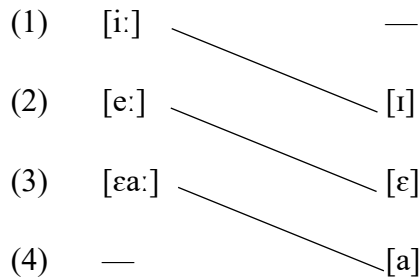


Figure 6. The relationship between long and short monophthongs in Faroese, based on Rischel (1964) and Figure 5.

We now turn to the pronunciation of the long and short monophthongs across the dialects, and we will start with long vowels. The pronunciation of the long monophthongs is given in figure 7.

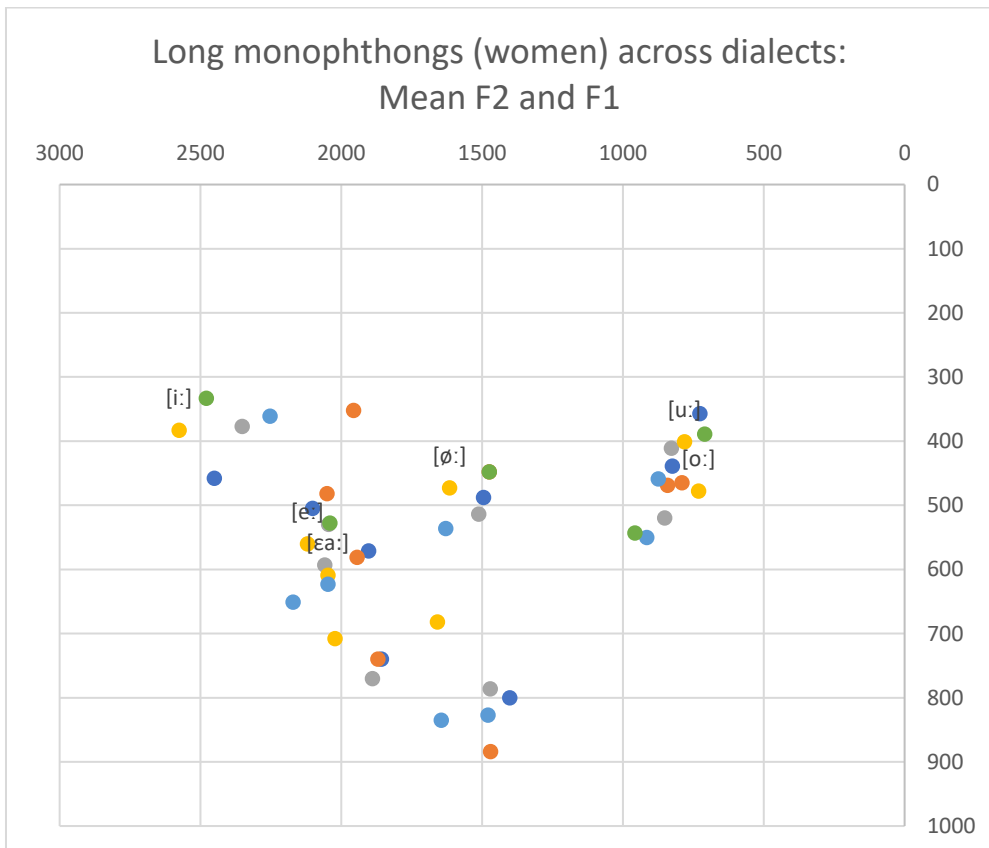


Figure 7. Long monophthongs. Eysturoy (dark blue), Norðurtreymoy (orange), Tórshavn (dark green), Vágur (light blue), Suðuroy (purple), Klaksvík (light green). We have included [ɛa:], which has the short variant [a], see Figure 6. All three measurements are included with the diphthong.

According to these findings, there is some variation in vowel production, although overall the vowels can be considered distinct.

We note that long /i:/ in Eysturoy (dark blue) is almost as low as [e:] in the neighboring dialect of Norðurstreymoy (orange), which has a centralized long /i:/-phoneme. The study further shows that long /i:/ in Vágar (light blue) is slightly more fronted. In Norðurstreymoy, [u:] and [o:] (orange) are very close. The study shows that /o:/ in Vágar (light blue), Norðurstreymoy (orange) and Eysturoy (dark blue) is reasonably high compared to Tórshavn (dark green), Klaksvík (light green) and Suðuroy (purple).

The results for women's pronunciation of the short monophthongs are presented in Figure 8.

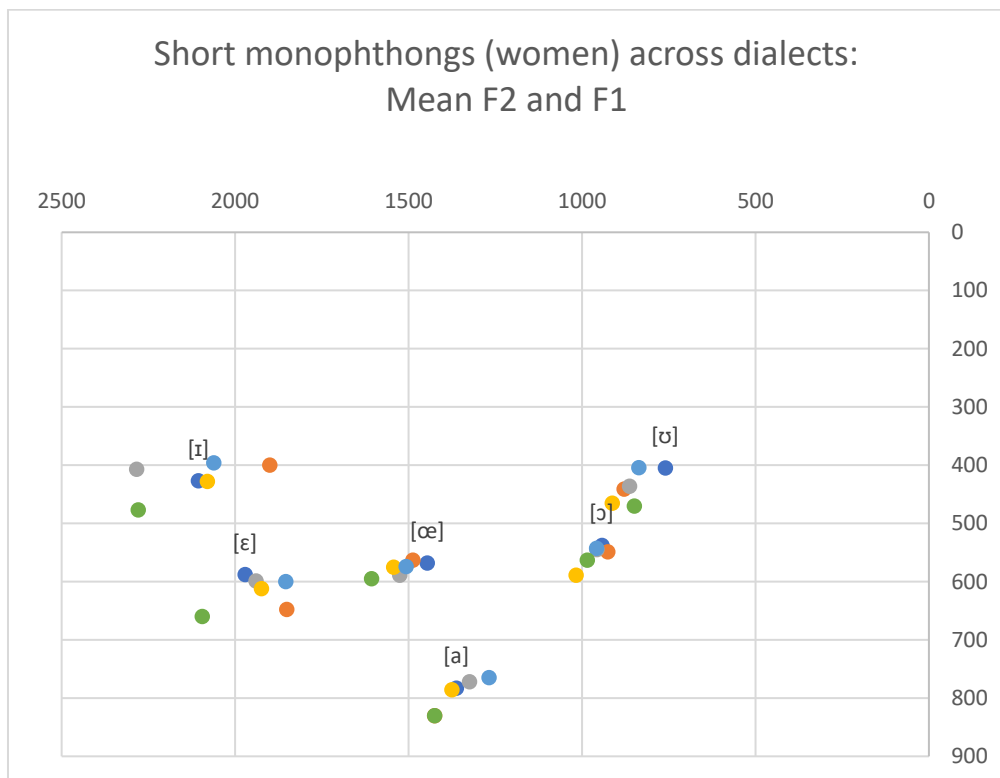


Figure 8. Short monophthongs as produced by women. Eysturoy (dark blue), Norðurtreymoy (orange), Tórshavn (dark green), Vágar (light blue), Suðuroy (purple), Klaksvík (light green).

According to the findings, there is some variation in vowel production, although overall the vowels can be considered distinct. The short variant [ɪ] in Klaksvík (light green) is fronted, as is short [ɪ] in Tórshavn (dark green). Short [ε] and short [œ] in Klaksvík is also more fronted than in the other dialects. That

gives Klaksvík a wider vowel space. In Norðurstreymoy (orange) short [ɪ] is centralized, as was the case with the long /i:/.

Male speakers

In the following, we look at the male informants. The numbers for the men are shown in table 3 and mean in table 4. The men come from Eysturoy, Norðurtreymoy, Tórshavn and Vágar. So Suðuroy and Klaksvík are missing compared to the women.

Men	Eysturoy		Streymoy		Tórshavn		Vágar	
	F2	F1	F2	F1	F2	F1	F2	F1
[i:]	2095	292	1999	288	2143	309	2276	324
[e:]	1858	448	1944	382	1825	436	1951	434
[ø:]	1299	439	1245	408	1311	436	1173	466
[u:]	552	307	741	350	764	360	777	365
[o:]	783	455	700	455	764	481	732	438
[ɛa:]	1759	465			1961	593	1825	477
	1537	542			1734	697	1375	676
	1162	590			1377	682	1565	693
[ɪ]	1848	345			1947	346	1722	358
[ɛ]	1565	499	1659	502	1695	505	1470	533
[œ]	1224	483	1180	495	1328	481	1227	522
[ʊ]	759	377			772		728	364
[ɔ]	839	521	836	526	961	586	807	521
[a]	902	479	1149	589	1197	670	1090	673

Table 3. Male informants.

The mean numbers for men are given in Table 4.

Mean	F2	F1
[i:]	2128	303
[e:]	1895	425
[ø:]	1257	437
[u:]	709	346
[o:]	745	457
[ɛa:]	1848	512
	1549	638
	1368	655
[ɪ]	1839	350
[ɛ]	1597	510

[œ]	1240	495
[ʊ]	753	371
[ɔ]	855	510
[a]	1085	603

Table 4. Male informants; mean numbers.

Figure 9 presents the mean number of men's pronunciations of long monophthongs.

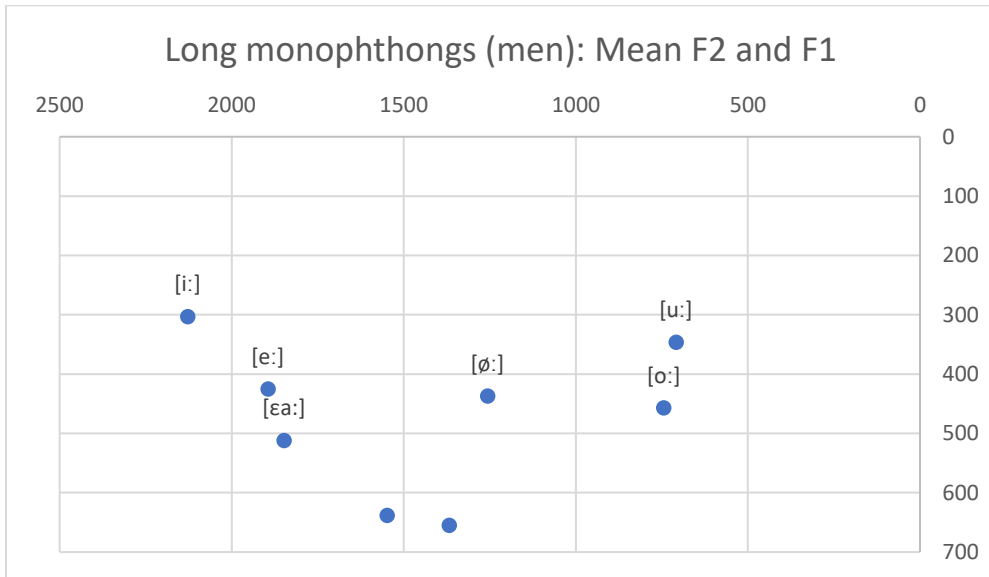


Figure 9. Mean number of men's pronunciations of long monophthongs. We have included [εa:], which has the short variant [a], see Figure 6. All three measurements are included with the diphthong.

The corresponding short vowels are presented in Fig. 10.

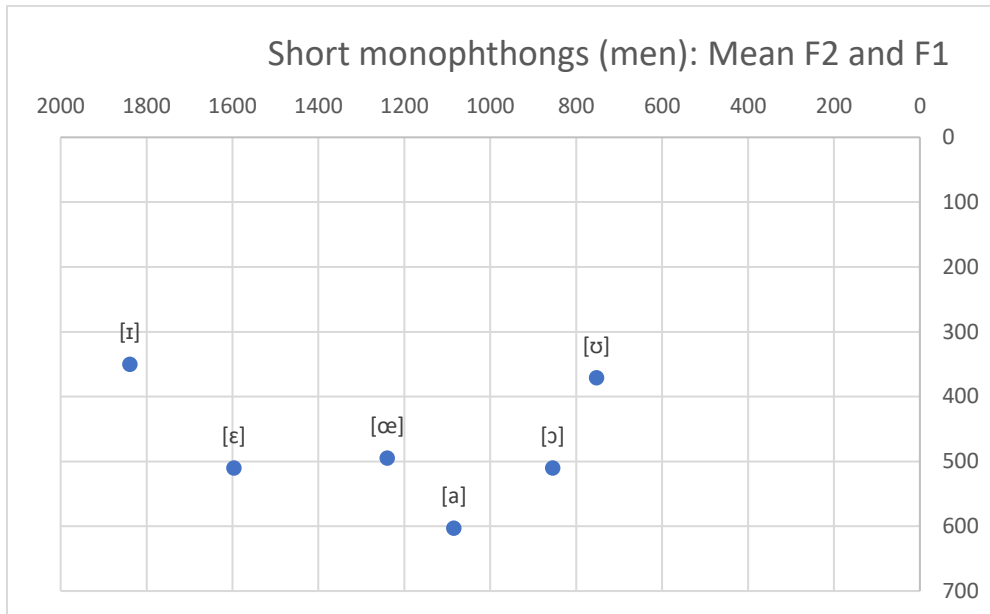


Figure 10. Short vowels as pronounced by male speakers.

In Figure 11 we show the pronunciation of the long monophthongs as produced by male speakers across dialects (Eysturoy, Norðurstreymoy, Tórshavn, Vágur):

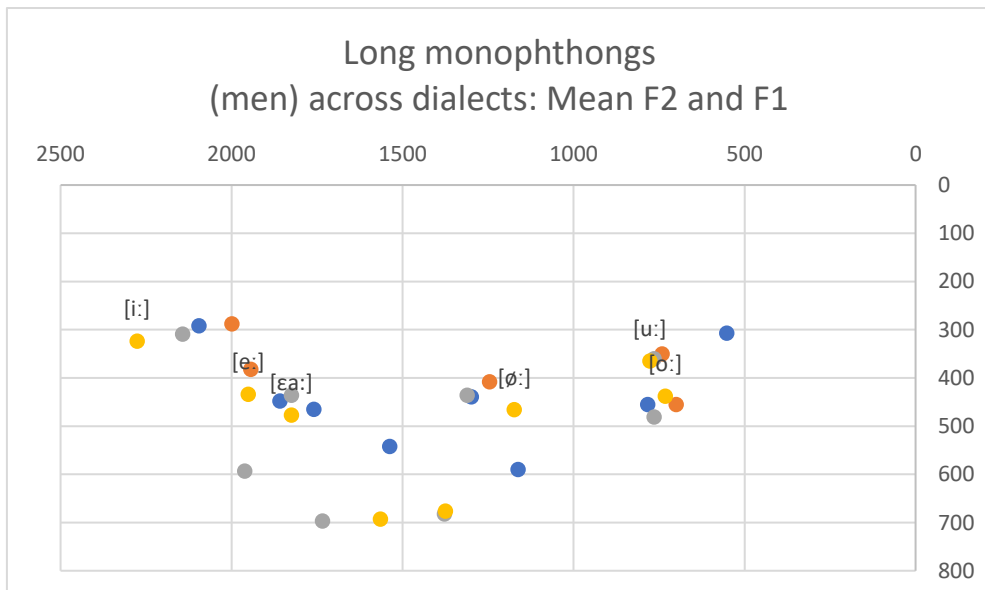


Figure 11. Long monophthongs, male speakers from Eysturoy (dark blue), Norðurstreymoy (orange), Tórshavn (dark green) and Vágur (light blue). We have

included [ɛa:], which has the short variant [a], see Figure 6. All three measurements are included with the diphthong.

There is some variation, but the vowels are kept apart, as can be seen. The corresponding short vowels as spoken by men are in Figure 12.

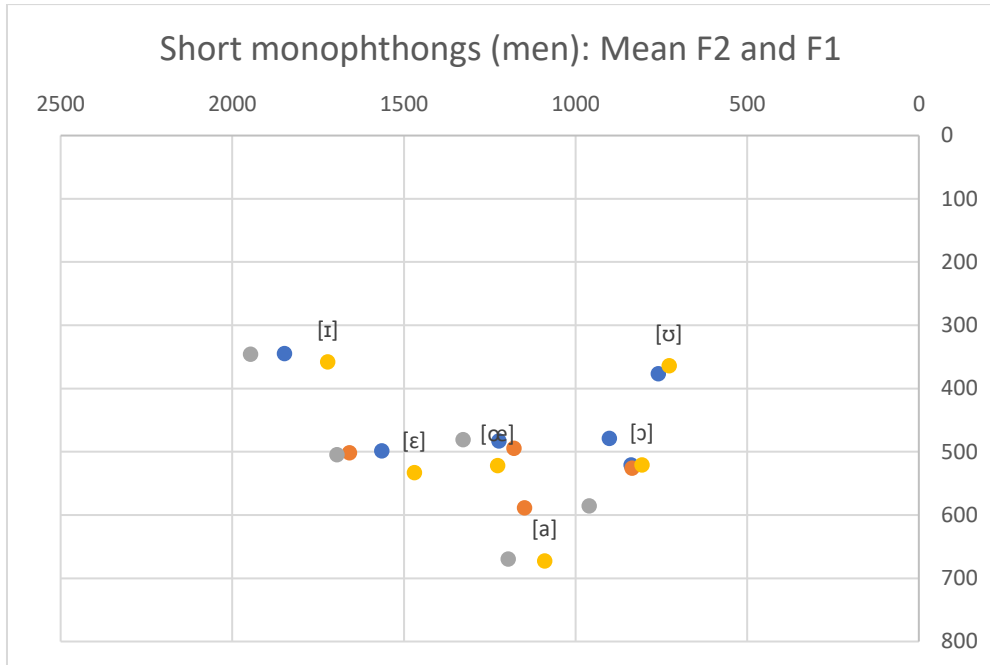


Figure 12. Short monophthongs as spoken by men from Eysturoy (dark blue), Norðurstreymoy (orange), Tórshavn (dark green) and Vágar (light blue).

The pronunciation of long and short vowels by men is illustrated in Figure 13.

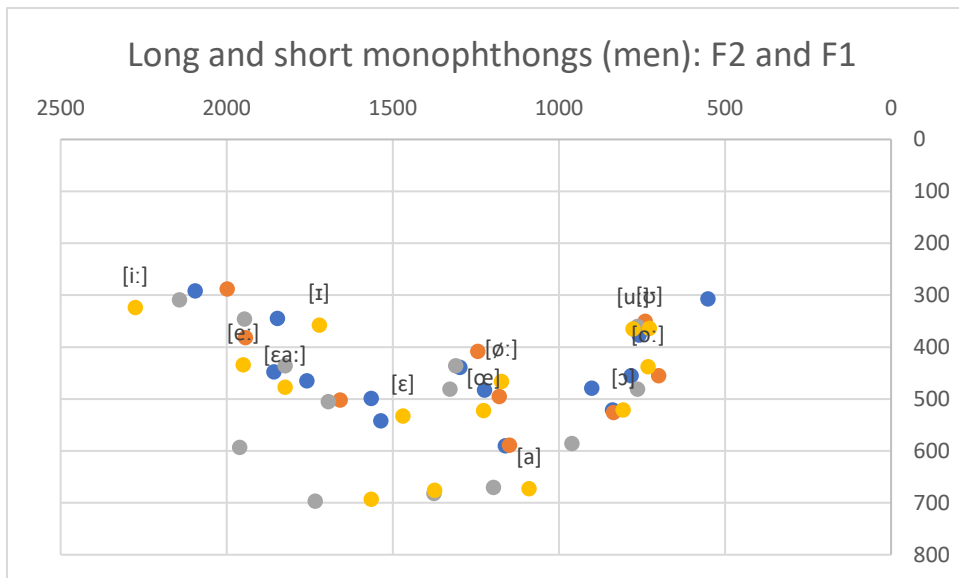


Figure 13. Long and short monophthongs as spoken by men in Eysturoy (dark blue), Norðurstreymoy (orange), Tórshavn (dark green) and Vágar (light blue). We have included [ɛa:], which has the short variant [a], see Figure 6. All three measurements are included with the diphthong.

As with the women the back rounded vowels are lying closer together than the front vowels. long and short /u/ in Vágar (light blue) are very close. In Eysturoy (dark blue) /a/ is lying very high. Long /i/ in Vágar is very fronted.

Comparison of male and female speakers

To compare male and female speakers, frequencies were converted to **Bark**, which reflects how the ear perceives sound rather than raw acoustic frequency (Hz).

Independent t-tests were conducted to examine differences between long and short vowels across dialects.

For /i/:

- Women show significant differences between long and short vowels (F1: $p = 0.05$; F2: $p = 0.002$).
- Men also show significant differences (F1: $p = 0.02$; F2: $p = 0.03$).
- Long /i:/ differs significantly between women and men (F1: $p = 0.004$).
- When men and women are analyzed together, long and short /i:/ differ significantly (F1: $p = 0.009$; F2: $p = 0.001$).

The same overall pattern appears for /e/:

- Long and short /e/ differ significantly (F1: $p = 0.0006$; F2: $p = 0.0002$).
- Among women, long and short /e/ differ significantly in both F1 ($p = 0.001$) and F2 ($p = 0.003$).
- Among men, the difference is also significant (F1: $p = 0.002$; F2: $p = 0.003$).
- There are significant gender differences for both long [e:] (F1: $p = 0.0003$; F2: $p = 0.047$) and short [ɛ] (F1: $p = 0.0006$; F2: $p = 0.0002$).

In addition, short [ɛ] is more centralized than long [e:], mirroring the pattern observed for /i/.

The /ø/ vowels form two distinct clusters. The men's tokens are positioned further to the right and higher in the vowel diagram, indicating a more centralized articulation, while the women's tokens are located further to the left, see Figure 14. For both groups, the blue dots representing long [ø:] appear higher in the diagram than the short [œ], reflecting a difference in vowel height.

For women, long and short /ø/ differ significantly in F1 ($p = 0.003$), but not in F2 ($p = 0.19$). The same pattern is observed for men: there is a significant difference in F1 ($p = 0.006$), but not in F2 ($p = 0.31$).

When comparing women and men, both the long and short /ø/ show significant differences in F1 and F2. For long [ø:], the differences are significant in F1 ($p = 0.03$) and F2 ($p = 0.01$). For short [œ], the differences are also significant in F1 ($p = 0.004$) and F2 ($p = 0.002$).

When examining the **back rounded vowels**, the overall pattern shows smaller differences compared to the front vowels, although differences are still present. In the vowel diagram, these vowels are positioned closer together, indicating less separation in vowel space.

For /u/:

- Women's long and short /u/ differ significantly in both F1 ($p = 0.005$) and F2 ($p = 0.03$).
- Men's long and short /u/ also differ significantly in both F1 ($p = 0.043$) and F2 ($p = 0.039$).

For /o/:

- Long and short /o/ differ significantly in F2 ($p = 0.0002$).
- Among women, long and short /o/ differ significantly in both F1 ($p = 0.008$) and F2 ($p = 0.026$).
- Among men, long and short /o/ are also significantly different.

- Comparing men and women, long [o:] differs only in F2 ($p = 0.06$), not in F1 ($p = 0.14$).
- Similarly, men's and women's short [ɔ] differ only in F2 ($p = 0.029$), not in F1 ($p = 0.14$).

For /a/:

- Men's and women's short /a/ differ significantly in both F1 ($p = 0.004$) and F2 ($p = 0.0001$).
- Short /a/ and [a] in long /a/ are significantly different only in F2: 0,004, not in F1: 0,08. [a] in the diphthong is more front and lower in most cases.

Overall, while the back rounded vowels occupy a more compact area in the vowel space, statistically significant differences are still found between vowel length categories and between genders, particularly in F2.

In figure 14 we show how men and women produced long and short vowels.

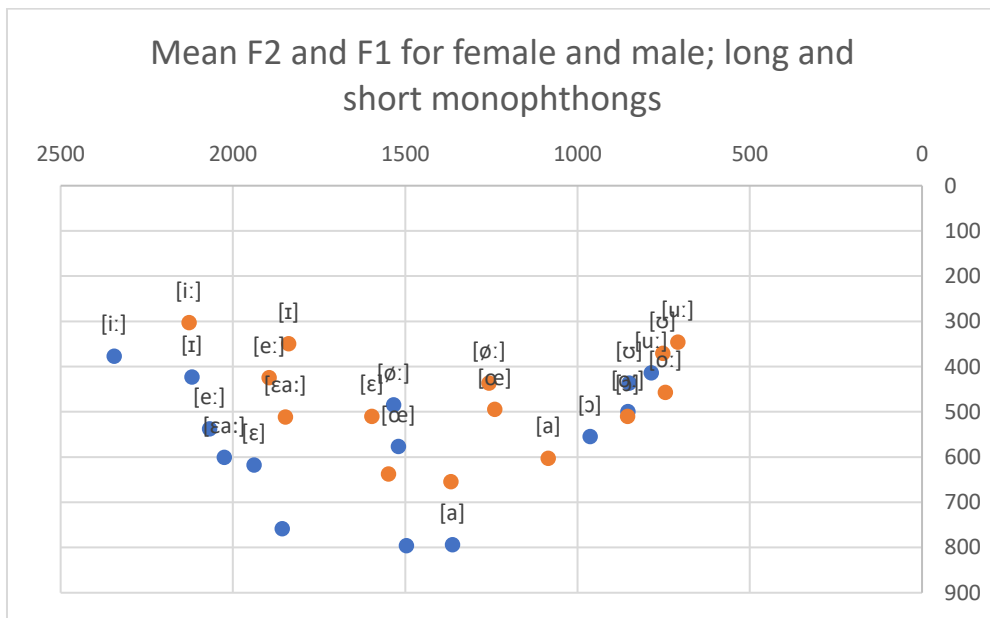


Figure 14. shows all long and short vowels in all areas in Bark for both men (orange) and women (blue).

In figure 15, we see all vowels, long and short, in all areas in Bark and both men and women.

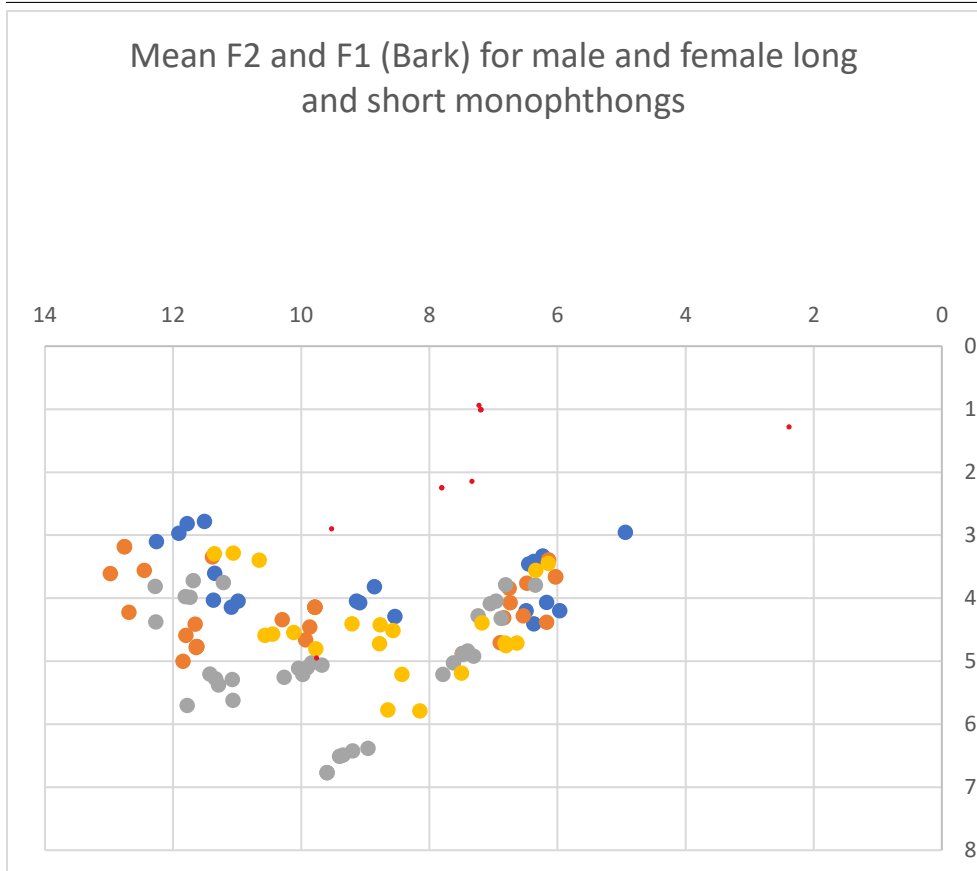


Figure 15. Men long (dark blue), women long (orange), women short (green), men short (light blue).

To summarize

This study demonstrates a clear distinction between long and short monophthongs. Long vowels are generally tense and produced higher in the vowel space, while short vowels are lax and articulated lower. Significant differences were found between long and short vowels and between male and female speakers, whereas dialect differences were comparatively small and often not perceptually noticeable.

Women display larger vowel spaces than men, consistent with previous research. Most expected vowel qualities were found across dialect areas. However, variation was observed in the realization of /u/ and /o/. In particular, the long and short /u/ vowels show signs of a near-merger.

Compared to earlier measurements (Rischel 1964), the 2025 monophthongs are generally positioned higher and further to the right in the vowel space, except for /i/ and /u/.

Typologically, the size of the monophthongal system appears typical, although the vowels are not fully peripheral, especially in the back area of the vowel space.

The study has several limitations, including a limited number of speakers, possible social variation, the observer's paradox, and the use of reading tasks and nonsense words. Further research, particularly involving spontaneous speech and more detailed acoustic analysis, is needed to clarify the observed variation.

Conclusion

The study reveals a clear distinction between long and short monophthongs: long vowels are typically tense and articulated with a higher tongue position, whereas short vowels are lax and produced lower in the vowel space. There are small differences between dialects, but clear differences between men and women, but not something people notices. These results align with earlier research and general auditory impressions of Faroese speech. The only exception to this pattern is the long and short /u/-vowels, which exhibit signs of a near merger.

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