

# LA PROSODIA DELLE ESCLAMATIVE SARCASTICHE NELL'ITALIANO DI BARI. UNO STUDIO PILOTA

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## ABSTRACT

The correct production and interpretation of sarcastic utterances rely on contextual references. In addition to the pragmatic dimension, prosody plays a key role in sarcastic speech. Verbal irony has been investigated in some languages, but the extreme variability of ironic prosody has not allowed outlining a definite tendency. With reference to Italian, the literature specifically focused on the acoustic analysis of sarcastic utterances is particularly scarce.

On the basis of these issues, our research aimed to verify the differences between sincerity and sarcasm in Bari Italian in terms of prosodic parameters. In particular, we tested the comparison of sincere and sarcastic wh-exclamatives. Results showed that sarcasm is highlighted by some prosodic parameters. Furthermore, the study revealed that verbal irony cannot be connected to a single vocal profile: speakers seem to choose among a series of ironic voices.