

## **Acoustic properties and regional variation of Saterland Frisian vowels**

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Saterland Frisian is reported to have a complex vowel inventory with up to 21 monophthongs and 16 diphthongs (FORT 1980, 2001, KRAMER 1982). According to SIEBS (1889) and FORT (1980), Saterland Frisian exhibits three distinct regional varieties in the villages of Ramsloh, Scharrel, and Strücklingen, which may be closely linked to systematic dialectal differences in the expansion and exploitation of the vowel space. This study is the first systematic acoustic investigation of Saterland Frisian monophthongs and diphthongs, including their regional variation. Following previous studies (see BOHN 2004, CLOPPER ET AL 2005, ADANK ET AL 2007, MAYR & DAVIES 2011), each vowel category was embedded in a neutral /hVt/ frame for a read elicitation task. Acoustic measurements were taken throughout the vocalic portion and included vowel duration, the location in the F1 by F2 space at the temporal midpoint (for monophthongs), and the amount of vowel inherent spectral change (VISC, see NEAREY & ASSMANN 1986, ADANK ET AL 2004, FOX & JACEWICZ 2009, MORRISON & ASSMANN 2013). The results add to the documentation of an endangered minority language and to our understanding of the organization of contrastive vowel categories in languages with complex inventories.