

# Interviews with participants from Björn Guðfinnsson's study

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# Intro



- Three major overview studies in regional pronunciation
  - Björn Guðfinnsson (BG) (1940s)
  - RÍN (1980s)
  - RAUN (2010s)
- The third/fourth interview with Björn Guðfinnsson's original participants
- Participants born in 1928–1932
- 23 interviews (10 women and 13 men)

# Roadmap



- General information about the work we did this summer
- Three previous studies on regional pronunciation
  - Björn Guðfinnsson's study
  - The RÍN study
  - The RAUN study
- Initial results
- Possible outcomes and further work

# Summer of 2023



- Development of the so-called “interview framework” – scripts for interviews
  - Four different scripts for four different dialect regions
  - Each script has four sections:
    - General information
    - Reading
    - Listening and evaluation
    - Self-evaluation
- Pilot study (6 interviews)
- Organizing interviews
  - Contacting participants
  - Organization of trips around the country
  - Profiles of participants

# Björn Guðfinnsson (1940s)

- 6520 children, mostly 10–13 y/o
- Reading of short texts
- No recordings
- Harðmæli (e. *hard speech*)
- Raddaður framburður (e. *voiced pronunciation*)

IV 13t

p	t	k	p	t	k	l	m	n	ð	lk	mk	nk	ft	bð	bð	gð	gd	i	e	α	g	lj	rd
b	d	g	b	d	g	ý	m	n	þ	lg	mg	ng	lt	vð	vð	qð	qð	u	ö	α	g	k	rd

Önnur hljóðfræðileg atriði:

1) brögðum  
2) gneti, sjálf, álflið  
3) falkum, hjálp

Ýmis önnur atriði:

idley  
+i: qrd

741 2500

An example of Björn Guðfinnsson's analysis during interviews. This is one of the participants we interviewed in Akureyri this summer – around 80 years later.

# RÍN (1980s) and RAUN (2010s)



- Some of Björn Guðfinnsson's participants from the 1940s participated in a second study on regional pronunciation, RÍN, in the 1980s, directed by Höskuldur Þráinsson and Kristján Árnason
- Some of Björn Guðfinnsson's participants also participated in the RAUN study in 2010–2013, directed by Höskuldur Þráinsson
- Some participated in all three of those studies on regional pronunciation, others only two

## Results: The interviews

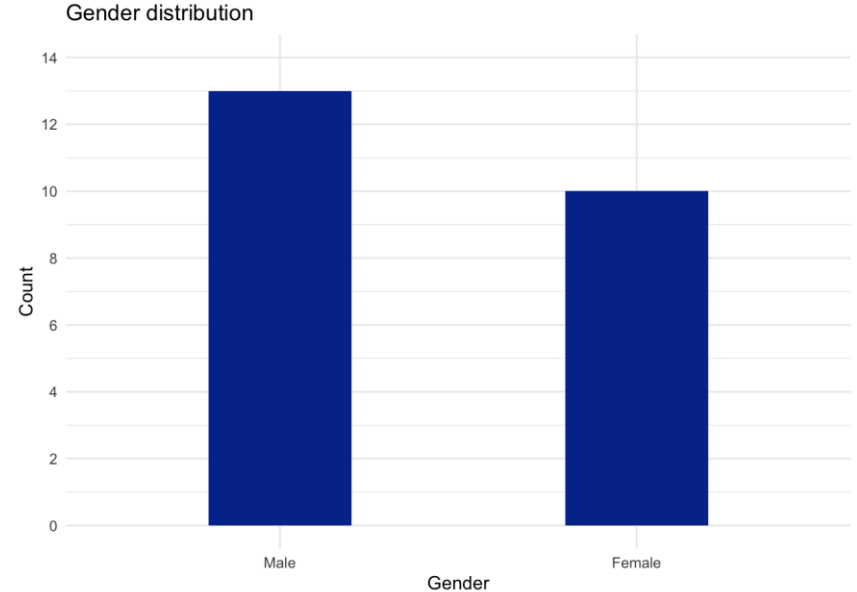
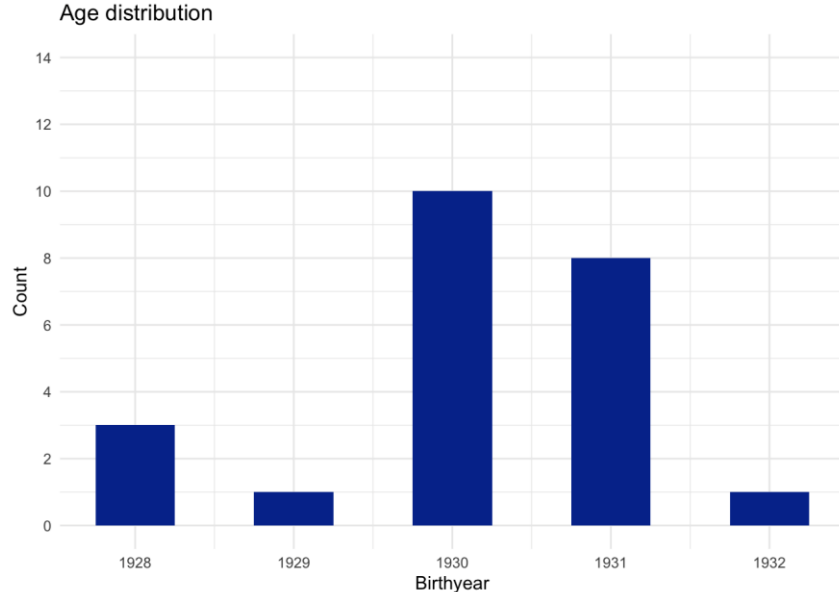
- The interviews were conducted in the participants' homes
- The visits lasted from 45 minutes to more than two hours
- A considerable amount of time was spent chatting and looking at family photos, books, handicraft etc.
- Not all participants were able to complete all the tasks

# Results: Participant group composition



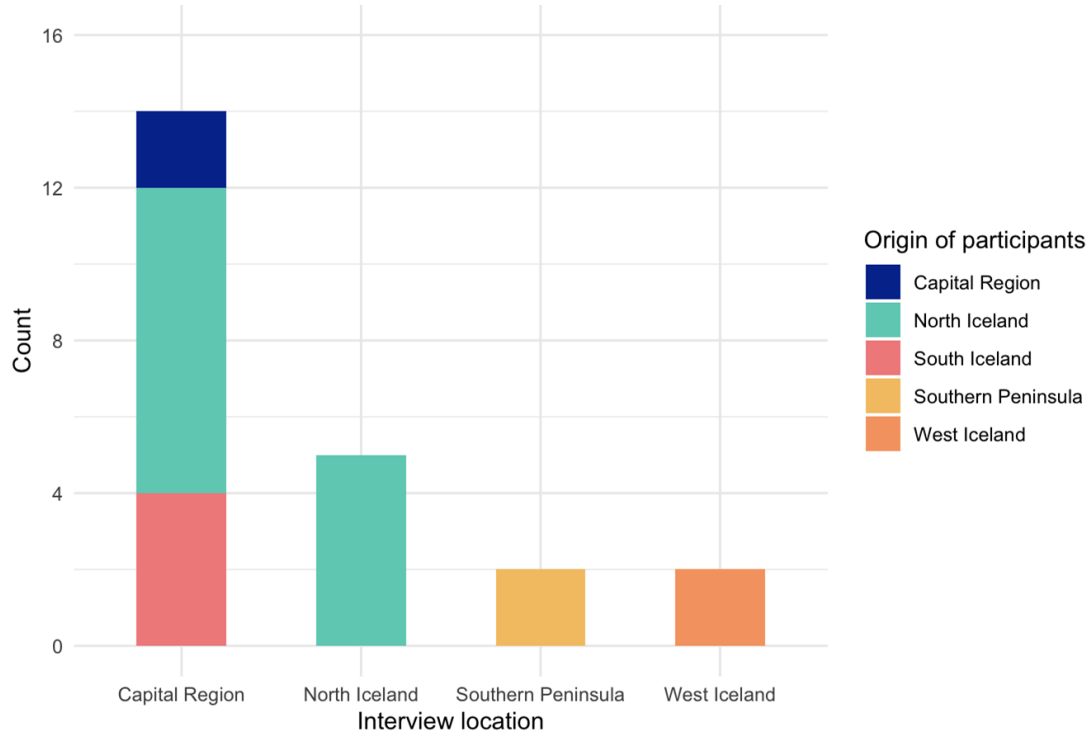
Total number of participants: 23 (all had participated in BG as children)

Age range: 91–95 years





# Results: Interview locations and origin of participants



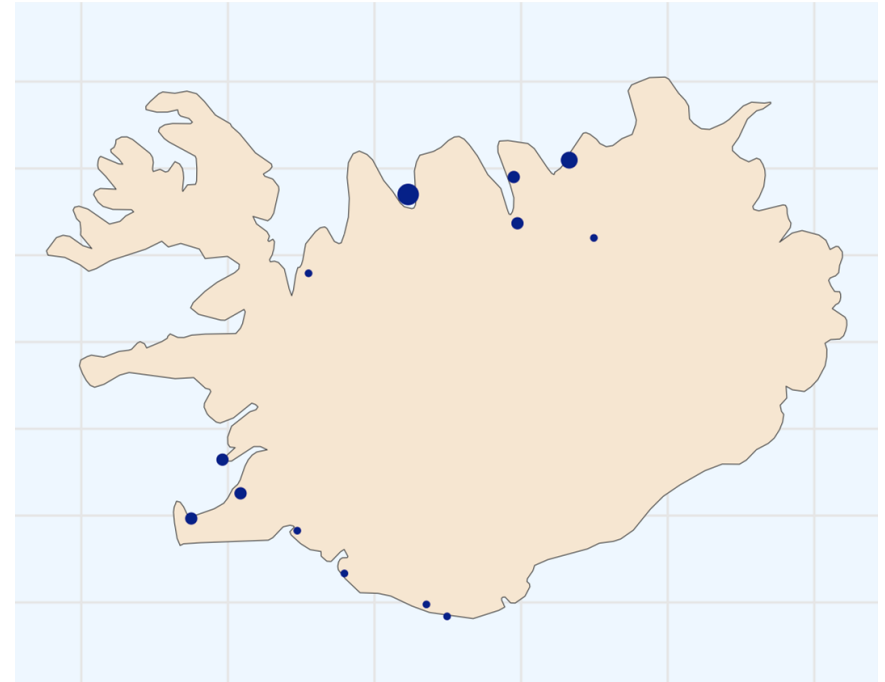
**11 participants still lived in their original dialect area**

**12 participants had moved away from their original dialect area**

# Results: Interview locations and origin of participants



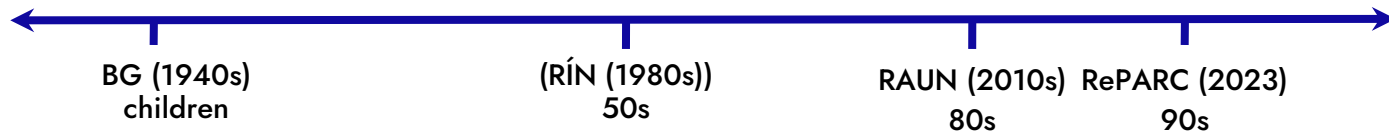
Interview locations



Origin of participants

# Future use of the collected data

- The third/fourth interview where these participants' pronunciation is tested → **invaluable data in research on language change across the lifespan**



- In-depth interviews provided detailed information on the participants' lifespan → **maintenance/abandonment of dialects in light of factors such as upbringing, education, employment, places of residence, gender, age etc.**
- Attitudes, perception and awareness of the participants' own and others' dialect → **self-identity and folk linguistics**
- A running online survey followed by in-depth interviews → **comparison with other generations**

# Bibliography



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**Thank you for your attention!**