

PRONUNCIATION

Introductory.

The earliest modern Faroese texts – vocabularies and transcriptions of traditional ballads – date from the seventies of the eighteenth century. They are written phonetically and so vary according to the dialect of the writer. In 1846 V. U. Hammershaimb published some texts in a new orthography he had drawn up on etymological principles. This orthography bore a close resemblance to the parent language Old Norse, for one of Hammershaimb's aims was to make the treasures of Faroese balladry more accessible to all Scandinavians. At the same time he had created a medium equally acceptable to all Faroese speakers, regardless of their dialect. But, on the other hand, modern Faroese is phonetically far removed from Old Norse, so that Hammershaimb's system gave but a very imperfect representation of the spoken word. In the meantime, however, his orthography with minor modifications has become the accepted standard and hence we often find considerable differences between spelling and sound in Faroese to-day.

There is as yet no recognised standard pronunciation of Faroese, though that of the Tórshavn district is the most significant. Dialect speaking is everywhere the general rule. However, the differences in the pronunciation of the dialects in no way hinder mutual comprehension. The following description represents an average pronunciation based broadly on the central area (Vágur, Streymsø, Eysturø). Many other pronunciations may be heard inside as well as outside this area, and these are, of course, acceptable. Some idea of the differences may be obtained from the phonetically transcribed extracts in V. U. Hammershaimb, *Færøsk Anthologi*, 1891, reprinted 1947.

§ 1. The Faroese Alphabet.

The Faroese alphabet consists of 28 letters:

Faroese name. Phonetic symbol, § 2.		Faroese name. Phonetic symbol, § 2.	
A a	<i>fyrri a</i> [fʏrːa ˈlea]	M m	<i>emm</i> [emː]
Á á	<i>á</i> [a]	N n	<i>enn</i> [enː]
B b	<i>be</i> [beː]	O o	<i>o</i> [oː]
D d	<i>de</i> [deː]	Ó ó	<i>ó</i> [u]
Ð ð	<i>edd</i> [eðː]	P p	<i>pe</i> [peː]
E e	<i>e</i> [eː]	R r	<i>err</i> [erː]
F f	<i>eff</i> [efː]	S s	<i>ess</i> [esː]
G g	<i>ge</i> [geː]	T t	<i>te</i> [teː]
H h	<i>há</i> [ha]	U u	<i>u</i> [uː]
I i	<i>fyrri i</i> [fʏrːa ˈiː]	Ú ú	<i>ú</i> [u]
Í í	<i>fyrri í</i> [fʏrːa ˈoɪ]	V v	<i>ve</i> [veː]
J j	<i>jodd</i> [jɔðː]	Y y	<i>seinna i</i> [saɪna ˈiː]
K k	<i>ká</i> [ka]	Ý ý	<i>seinna í</i> [saɪna ˈoɪ]
L l	<i>ell</i> [elː]	Æ æ	<i>seinna a</i> [saɪna ˈlea]

(sometimes written Ö, ö)

§ 2. Description of Faroese sounds.

The following slightly modified signs of the International Phonetic Alphabet are used in the transcription of Faroese words.

Vowels.

[aː]	is pronounced as <i>a</i> in Northern German <i>war</i> .
[a]	the short form of [aː].
[eː]	pronounced as <i>e</i> in German <i>Mehl</i> .
[ɛː]	a rather open [eː].
[ɛ]	pronounced as <i>e</i> in English <i>set</i> .
[iː]	pronounced as <i>ie</i> in German <i>Biene</i> .
[i]	the short form of [iː].
[ɪ]	pronounced as <i>i</i> in English <i>fish</i> .
[oː]	pronounced as <i>o</i> in German <i>Bote</i> .
[o]	the short form of [oː].
[ɔː]	a rather open [oː].
[ɔ]	pronounced as <i>o</i> in English <i>hot</i> .
[œ]	pronounced as <i>ö</i> in German <i>Stöcke</i> (i. e. short, open).
[øː]	pronounced as <i>ö</i> in German <i>Stöcke</i> (i. e. long, closed).

[uː]	is pronounced as <i>oo</i> in English <i>foot</i> .
[u]	the short form of [uː].
[o]	pronounced as <i>u</i> in English <i>put</i> .
[u]	pronounced as <i>oo</i> (<i>ui</i>) in Scottish <i>good</i> (<i>guid</i>).
[y]	pronounced as <i>ü</i> in Northern German <i>Glück</i> .

The sign [ˌ] under a vowel denotes that it is very short, as in the diphthongs [aj, ɔj, oɪ].

Consonants.

[f, h, k, m, p, s, v, w] are pronounced as the corresponding ordinary letters in English; [l, n, t] are dentals. [b, g] are pronounced as the corresponding ordinary letters in English, except that they are only very slightly voiced; [d] is a dental and is likewise only very slightly voiced.

[ŋ]	is pronounced as <i>n</i> in English <i>finger</i> .
[ɲ]	pronounced as <i>gn</i> in French <i>vignette</i> (i. e. palatal n).
[ʎ]	pronounced as <i>gl</i> in Italian <i>voglio</i> (i. e. palatal l though <i>gl</i> is actually long [ʎɔːo]).
[ʃ]	pronounced as <i>sch</i> in German <i>schon</i> , though the lips are not protruded.
[c]	pronounced as <i>ch</i> in English <i>church</i> .
[j]	pronounced as <i>j</i> in English <i>jump</i> , though the sound is only slightly voiced.
[ɟ]	pronounced as <i>y</i> in English <i>young</i> .
[r]	pronounced as <i>r</i> in English <i>ring</i> , but rather more emphatic.
[ʂ]	pronounced as <i>rs</i> in Swedish <i>först</i> (i. e. retroflex s).
[o]	denotes a breathed consonant, e. g. [p, ɛ], i. e. completely voiceless counterparts of [b, g].
[ː]	denotes a long consonant, e. g. [bː, gː].

Aspiration.

In slow or emphatic speech a slight aspiration [ʰ] may be heard before *ke*, *pp*, *t* and also before *t* when followed by another consonant: *gakk* [gaʰkː] go (imper. fam. sg.), *bakki* [baʰkːu] cliff, *koppur* [kɔʰpːuɾ] cup, *mitt* [mɔʰtːu] mine, my (neuter sg.), *batna* [baʰtːna] to improve, *litli* [lɔʰtːlu] little one (masc.). In any case this preaspiration is no more

significant than the aspiration heard after Faroese *k*, *p*, *t* in some positions, i. e. [kʰ, pʰ, tʰ], as also in English. None of these aspirations are marked in the ordinary transcriptions in this book.

Stress.

The stress falls on the first syllable in nearly all native Faroese words; the second element in compounds carries subsidiary stress. Full stress is indicated, where necessary, by [ˈ] before the stressed syllable, [ˌ] denotes a subsidiary stress.

Examples: *tómur* [ˈtʊmʊr] empty, *ógoldið* [ˈʊgʊldɪð] unpaid, *hestarnir* [ˈhestanʊr] the horses, *tilbiðja* [ˈtɪlɪbɪja] to worship, *álitandi* [ˈalɔɪtandi] reliable, *ongastæði* [ˈɔŋgastæɳ] nowhere, *seyðafjúgi* [ˈseiðafjúɣi] flock of sheep.

Exceptions are words of three or more syllables containing the prefixes *ó-* or *sam-*, when the stress may also fall on the second syllable: *óðespiliður* [ˈʊðespɪliːðʊr] or [ʊˈðespɪliːðʊr] unpleasant, *sembertíður* [ˈsambartɪliːðʊr] or [sambˈertɪliːðʊr] agreeable; notice also *margátligur* [marˈkɔtliːðʊr] peculiar, *uppiðkoyti* [ʊˈpɔkɔɪtɪ] addition, addendum. The prefix *al-* (lit. all) is unstressed in *alofast* [alɔfɔst] most frequently.

Words of foreign origin often bear the stress on syllables other than the first, e. g.: *lærarinna* [ˈlearaɪnna] (female) teacher, *studentur* [ˈstʊðɛntʊr] student, *forargilgur* [ˈfɔraɣɪliːðʊr] annoying, vexing, *forbanna* [ˈfɔrbanna] to curse.

§ 3. Short and long vowel quantities.

Faroese vowels and diphthongs may be short or long in syllables having the main or subsidiary stress.

They are long when occurring: a) finally, b) before a single consonant, c) before the consonant groups *kl*, *kr*, *pl*, *pr*, *tr* (N. B. not *tl*). They are short when occurring before a double consonant or group of consonants, except *kl*, etc. Note: Orthographic *kj*, *tj*; *sj* represent the single fricative consonants [ç], [ʃ]. *ð* is nearly always to be ignored as it is silent except in a very few words where the group *ðr* is pronounced [gr], § 5.

Vowels in fully unstressed syllables are short.

The following summary table illustrates the characteristic main differences in the short and long pronunciation of vowels and diphthongs.

Ortho- graphy.	Pron. when: short - long.	Ortho- graphy.	Pron. when: short - long.	Ortho- graphy.	Pron. when: short - long.
<i>a</i>	[a]	[ea]	<i>u</i>	[o]	[uː]
<i>á</i>	[ɔ]	[ɔa]	<i>ú</i>	[y]	[u]
<i>e</i>	[ɛ]	[eː]	<i>y</i> as <i>i</i>		<i>ey</i>
<i>í</i>	[ɪ]	[iː]	<i>y</i> as <i>i</i>		<i>oy</i>
<i>í</i>	[oɣ]	[ox]	<i>æ</i> as <i>a</i>		
<i>o</i>	[ɔ]	[oː]		[œ]	[ɔː]
<i>ó</i>	[œ]	[ɔu]			

§ 4. The vowels and diphthongs in detail.

a is pronounced:

1. [a] – when short, except as in 2: *land* [land] land, *koma* [koːma] to come, *lærari* [learaɪ] teacher, *orðabók* [ˈoːraˌbʊk] dictionary, *tad* [ta] it (unstressed), the (n. nom. acc. sg.), *ta* [ta] the (fem. acc. sg.); exceptions: *fram* [fram] forward, *man* [man] may (verb sg.).

2. [ɛ] – before *ng*, *nk*: *langur* [leŋɔr] long, *tangi* [teŋɣi] spit of land, *banki* [beŋɛv] (I) knock; exceptions are words from Danish: *banki* [baŋɛv] (money) bank, *sangur* [saŋɔr] song, *mangla* [maŋgla] to lack.

3. [ea] – when long, except as in 4, 5: *maður* [meaːvɔr] man, *spakari* [speakaɪ] quieter, *beinasmur* [ˈbeinaˌseamɔr] kind, *lag* [lea] position. *tad* [ˈtea] it (stressed), that (n. nom. acc. sg.), *ta* [ˈtea] that (fem. acc. sg.).

4. [ɛː] – when followed by [a]: *baða* [bɛːa] to bathe, *hagar* [heːar] hither.

5. [aː] – in some foreign words: *tomat* [ˈtoːmaːt] tomato, *hara* [haːra] hare (also [heara]), *statur* [staːtɔr] state.

á is pronounced:

1. [ɔ] – when short: *hát* [hɔtː] highly, *náddi* [naːdɪ] approached (sg.).

2. [ɔa] – when long, except as in 3: *bátur* [baːtɔr] boat, *já* [ɔa] few (n. nom. acc. pl.), *réd* [rɔa] advice.

3. [ɔː] – when followed by [a]: *jáa* [fɔːa] to obtain, *ráða* [rɔːa] to advise.

When [ɔa] is followed by [v] the glide consonant [j] is heard between them, when followed by [o] the glide [v] is heard: *áin* [ɔajun] the stream, river, *bláur* [blaːvɔr] blue.

Unstressed *á* is normally pronounced [a]: *á landi* [a'landi] on land, *sín ámillum* [sɔxnamldn] between themselves.

e is pronounced:

1. [ɛ] – when short, except as in 2: *vestur* [vɛstɔr] west, *hendur* [hɛndɔr] hands, *enn* [ɛn:] still; also *men* [mɛn] but.
2. [ɐ] – in unstressed syllables: *nerhendis* [nearndɪs] near at hand (also written *nerindis*), *áðrenn* [aɐn] before (conj.); also *ella* [ɛlda] or.
3. [e:] – when long, except as in 4: *eta* [e:ta] to eat, *ferð* [fɛ:r] journey.
4. [i:] – before [a], the glide [j] intervening: *medan(i)* [mi:jan(ɐ)] while, *mega* [mi:ja] must (pl.); however, the pronunciation [me:an(ɐ)] etc. is also widespread.

i is pronounced:

1. [ɪ] – when short, except as in 2: *skips* [ʃɪps] ship's, *drukkin* [drɔc:ɪn] drunken, *íkki* [ɛ:ɪ] not, *við* [vɪ] with, *sandi* [sandɪ] sand (dat.). When final *i* may be heard as a very close [e]; it is in any case a very lightly pronounced ending and the pronunciation [ɪ] given in this book is always acceptable.
2. [i] – in the ending *-ligur* when quite unstressed and in some foreign words: *stutlligur* [ʃtɔtliɔr] entertaining, pleasant, *mirakul* [mɪ'rea-kol] miracle.
3. [i:] – when long: *skip* [ʃi:p] ship, *hirðar* [hi:rɐr] herdsmen, *við* [vi:] as well, *stásiliga* [ʃtɔstɐsɪli:ja] stately; *id* which, who (rel. particle) is pronounced [ɔv] unless quite unstressed, see under *i*.

í is pronounced:

1. [ɔv] – when short: *mít* [mɔɪt:] my (n. nom. acc. sg.), *tínúdi* [tɔɪmɪɪ] liked (past. sg.); before [j, ʃ, ʒ] the [ɪ] element is not heard: *tíggu* [tɔj:ɔ] ten, *írskur* [ɔʃkor] Irish, *frískur* [fɪrɔʃkor] healthy; commonly also before *g*, *k*: *liega* [lɔg:a] to enliven, *líknanði* [lɔknandɪ] similar.
2. [ɔv] – when long: *í* [ɔv] in, *grísur* [grɔysɔr] pig.

Unstressed *í* is normally pronounced [ɪ]: *í dag* [ɪ'dæ] to-day, *tíggegnum* [ɪ'jɔegnɔn] through, *ímillum* [ɪ'mldn] between; likewise *id*: *hvat id* [ʃhvɛatɪ] what (rel.).

o is pronounced:

1. [ɔ] – when short, except as in 2: *ong* [ɔŋʂ] meadow, *rokna* [rɔkna] to reckon.
2. [o] – in unstressed syllables in some foreign words: *politi* [pɔlɪti:] police, *kílo* [ki:lɔ] kilo.
3. [o:] – when long, except as in 4: *kona* [ko:na] woman, *ord* [ɔ:r] word, *og* [o:] and.
4. [u:] – before [a]: *loda* [lu:a] to hang down, *bodafles* [ʃbu:a'fle:s] rock covered by water; however, the pronunciation [lo:a] etc. is widespread.

ó is pronounced:

1. [œ] – when short, except as in 2: *ódn* [œdn] tempest, *ðottir* [ðœtɪ:r] daughter.
2. [ɛ] – before *gv*: *nógv* [nɛgv] much, *sjógvur* [ʃɛgvɔr] sea.
3. [ɔu] – when long: *sól* [sɔu] sun, *ljót* [li:ɔu] sound; also in the following: *próstur* [prɔstɔr] “provost”, chief clergyman in the Faroes, *Tórshavn* [tɔuʂhaun] Tórshavn.

u is pronounced:

1. [o] – when short, except as in 2: *munur* [mɔn:ɔr] mouth, *børnun* [bœdnɔn] children (dat. pl.), *fjöruti* [fjœ:ɔtɪ] forty, *sápuðlætra* [sɔpɔ-ðlæ:ra] soap-bubble; also *skula* [skɔl:a] shall (pl.). In unstressed positions, except before final *n* and in the word *um* if, across, *u* tends to modify its quality, becoming more central and approaching [ø]. Some dialects substitute [ɐ], hence one may often see mistakes in print, e.g. *eldru* for *eldri* elder; in several words, however, both spellings are acceptable, e.g. *ógvuliga*, *ógviliga* very; in poetry [ɪ] and [o] can rhyme, cf. the poem *Vesturætt*, verse 3, p. 193.
2. [u] – in unstressed syllables in some foreign words: *studentur* [stɔndɛptɔr] student.
3. [u:] – when long: *munur* [mu:nɔr] difference, *dun* [du:n] roaring noise.

ú is pronounced:

1. [y] – when short, except as in 2: *krúss* [krɪs:] mug, *brúmma* [brɪm:a] the bridge (acc.).

2. [v] – before *gv*: *kúgv* [kʰv] cow, *trúgvur* [trʰgvʊr] faithful; also *brúðleyp* [brʰvleip] wedding.
3. [u] – when long: *hús* [haus] house, *klútur* [klʰutʊr] rag, *nú* [nu] now.

When *ú* is followed by a vowel, the glide consonant [w] may be heard between the vowels: *jónfrúin* [jɔnfrʰuwin] the maiden.

y is pronounced:

1. [ʏ] – when short: *systir* [sʰstʰr] sister, *ynski* [ʏnscʰ] wish.
2. [i:] – when long: *lykil* [li:cʰ] key, *synir* [sinʰr] sons.

y is pronounced:

1. [oʏ] – when short: *nýtt* [noʏt:] new (n. sg.), *rymndi* [roʏmndʰ] departed (past sg.); before [j, f, s, ʃ] the [ɣ] element is not heard: *nýggjur* [noʏ:or] new, *dýrt* [doʏt] dear (n. sg.), *fýrs* [foʏs:] eighty, *lýsti* [loʏtʰ] shone (past sg.); commonly also before [k]: *lykka* [lo:k.a] mildness (of climate).
2. [oʏ] – when long: *bý* [boʏ] town (acc.), *tyða* [toʏja] to translate.

When *y* is followed by a vowel, the glide consonant [j] is heard between the vowels: *býur* [boʏ:or] town, *býin* [boʏ:jn] the town (acc.).

æ is pronounced:

1. [a] – when short: *hædd* [ha:d] height, *lættur* [lat:or] light (in weight), easy, *mær* [mar] (to) me (unstressed), *fátækur* [fʰatʰakor] poor.
2. [æ] – when long, except as in 3: *æra* [æra] honour, *væl* [væ] well, *mær* [mar] (to) me (stressed).
3. [ɛ:] – when followed by [a]: *ræðast* [rɛ:ast] to be afraid, *frægarí* [frɛ:arɪ] better.

When *æ* is followed by *i* the glide consonant [j] is heard between the vowels, when followed by *u* the glide [v] is heard: *fræið* [frɛajv] the seed, *mæum* [mɛavʊn] sheep (dat. pl.) – baby language.

ø is pronounced:

1. [œ] – when short: *kveð* [kvœd] evening, *børn* [bœdn] children.
2. [ø:] – when long: *gøta* [gø:ta] path, street, *øl* [ø:l] beer, *kveða* [kvø:a] to chant.

When *ø* is followed by *i* the glide [j] is heard between the vowels, when followed by *u* the glide [v] is heard: *bœin* [bœ:jn] the homestead (acc.), *bœur* [bœ:vʊr] homestead.

ei is pronounced:

1. [ai] – when short, except as in 2: *eind* [aiɲd] unit, *veitsla* [vaiʃla] feast; the [i] element is not heard before [j]: *beiggj* [baj:] brother, *deiggj* [daj:] dough.
2. [c] – before [ɲ, ʃc]: *steingja* [stɔɲja] to shut, *einkj* [ɔɲcʰ] nothing, *teinkja* [tɔɲcʰ] to think; in some words the pronunciation [a] is heard: *dreingir* [draɲjʰr] boys, *Engilsmaður* [ʰaɲjʰsmɛavʊr] Englishman, *einkja* [aɲcʰ] widow, *leingi* [laɲjʰ] long (of time).
3. [ai] – when long: *bein* [bain] leg, *gleiða* [glaiva] to stride, *steikja* [staicʰ] to fry.

ey is pronounced:

1. [ɛ] – when short: *eystur* [ɛstʊr] east, *reytt* [rɛt:] red (n. sg.).
2. [ei] – when long: *dreymur* [dreimʊr] dream, *fleyg* [fleɪ] bird-catching (with net).

oy is pronounced:

1. [ɔi] – when short: *stoyttu* [stɔjt:ɔ] poured (past pl.), *roynd* [roɲɲd] examination; before [j, r] the [i] element is not heard: *oyggj* [ɔj:] island, *moyrkna* [moɲkna] to rot; commonly also before [k, g]: *roykta* [roktʰ] smoked (past sg.), *rangoygdur* [reɲgɔgdʊr] cross-eyed.
2. [ɔi] – when long: *hoyra* [hoɪra] to hear, *loysa* [loɪsa] to untie.

Note: An old form *oy* “island” is common in place names and words derived from them, when it is pronounced [ʏ] or [i]: *í Nólsoy* [ʏ nœʃsʌ] in Nólsoy, *Nólsoyarfjörður* [nœʃsajfjʊrʊr] Nólsoy Firth, *Færoyar* [fœr-jar] the Faroes; before the derivative ending *-ingur* it is lost altogether: *Nólsoyingur* [nœʃsʊŋʊr] man from Nólsoy, *Færoyingur* [fœ:rɲŋʊr] Faroese, cf. also *færoyskur* [fœ:rɲskʊr] Faroese. But in reading aloud, for instance, the written form influences the pronunciation, as a result particularly the ending *-oy* is sometimes pronounced [ɔi] as [nœʃsci], cf. § 23 Note.

§ 5. The consonants in detail.

b is pronounced:

1. [b] – in all positions, except final: *blása* [blasa] to blow, *rabarbur* [ra'barbɔr] rhubarb.
2. [ɸ] – when final: *lamb* [lamb] lamb.

bb is pronounced:

1. [b:] – when medial: *abbi* [ab:v] grandfather.
2. [ɸ:] – when final: *subb* [soɸ:] sea-fret, slight drizzle.

d is pronounced:

1. [d] – initially and medially, except as in 3: *deyður* [deivɔr] deaf, *sandur* [sandɔr] sand.
2. [ɖ] – when final: *hund* [hunɖ] dog (acc.), *vand* [vand] protected (fem. sg.).
3. [j] – in the combination *dj*: *djór* [jɔur] animal.

dd is pronounced:

1. [d:] – when medial: *rúdda* [rod:a] to clear.
2. [ɖ:] – when final: *hædd* [hæɖ:] height.

ð is never pronounced except as in 5; examples:

1. – (i) between *a*, *á*, *e*, *o* and *a*, and between *æ*, *ø* and *a* in some words: *stáðar* [sté:ar] place (gen.), *ráða* [rɔ:a] to advise, *gleða* [gle:a] to gladden, *boða* [bo:a] to forbode, *ræða* [rɛ:a] to frighten, *kvæða* [kvø:a] to chant, *ræða* [rø:a] to make a speech.

(ii) when final: *blad* [blea] leaf, *hurð* [hur] door.

(iii) before, between or after consonants: *biðja* [bi:ja] to request, *stirðna* [sturna] to become stiff and cold, *verða* [ve:ra] to become. In a few words *ð* is assimilated to a following *g*, *k*: *stegða* [steg:a] to stop, *múkkur* [mak:ɔr] grub.

In many cases the glide consonants [j, v, w] appear, according to the character of the surrounding vowels. Examples:

2. [j] – (i) after *i*, *y*, *í*, *ý*, *ei*, *ey*, *oy*: *siður* [si:jɔr] custom, *biða* [boɣja] to wait, *deyður* [deijɔr] dead.

(ii) between any vowel, except *ó*, *u*, *ú*, and a following *i*: *kastaði* [kastaj:ɮ] threw (sg.), *sóðin* [so:jun] boiled (past part.). *kvæði* [kveaj:ɮ] ballad.

3. [v] – (i) between *a*, *á*, *e*, *æ*, *ø* and *u*: *máður* [mævɔr] man, *átur* [avɔr] before, *leður* [le:vɔr] leather, *klæðum* [kleavɔn] clothes (dat.), *blæðum* [ble:vɔn] leaves (dat.).

(ii) in a few cases analogical [v] occurs, e.g.: *æða* [æva] eider-duck (cf. regular *æðu* [ævo] in the oblique sg., etc.), *ræða* [rø:va] speech (cf. regular obl. sg. *røðu* [rø:vo], etc.); similarly past participles have [v] throughout, thus *elskaður* [ɛlskavɔr] beloved (nom. acc. fem. pl.) by analogy with regular *elskaður* [ɛlskavɔr] (nom. masc. sg.), etc.

4. [w] – after *ó*, *u*, *ú*; this glide is not particularly prominent except in slow speech: *Óðin* [ɔuwun] Odin, *góðar* [gɔuwar] good (fem. pl.), *súður* [su:wur] south, *húðir* [huuwur] skins, *búðu* [buuwu] lived (past pl.).
5. *ð* before *r* is pronounced [g] in a few words: *leðrið* [legri] the leather, *veðrið* [vegrɮ] the weather, *æðr* [agr] vein, *í neðra* [i'negra] below, downstairs.

f is pronounced:

1. [f] – except as in 2: *fótur* [fɔutɔr] foot, *loft* [lɔft] ceiling.
2. In a few words it is assimilated to a following *t*: *aftan* [at:an] back (adv.) – but *aftan* [aftan] eve (of a saint's day) – *aftur* [at:ɔr] again, *eftir* [et:ur] after, *lyfta* [lɮ:ta] to lift.

ff is pronounced:

[f:] in all positions: *gaffil* [gaf:ɮ] fork.

g is pronounced:

1. [g] – (i) initially before vowels, except the single vowels *e*, *i*, *y* and the digraph *ey*: *gáfa* [gɔava] gift, *geit* [gait] goat, *gulur* [gu:ɔr] yellow, *gýsur* [gɔysɔr] is draughty.

(ii) initially before consonants, except in the combination *gj*: *glas* [gleas] glass, *gráta* [grɔata] to weep.

(iii) medially before voiced consonants: *húga* [hɣva] cap, *hugði* [hugɖɮ] thought (past sg.); see also 10.

(iv) medially after consonants when not followed by the single vowels *e*, *i*, *y* or the digraph *ey*: *sprunga* [spruŋga] to jump, *halga* [halga] to hallow.

(v) in some foreign words: *synagoga* [soɣna'go:ga] synagogue.

2. [ǰ] – when final after a consonant: *ting* [tuŋǰ] parliament, *tálǰ* [tɔǰǰ] tallow.

3. [j] – (i) before the single vowels *e*, *i*, *y* and the digraph *ey*: *genta* [ʒɛnta] girl, *gýftur* [ʒʏftɔr] married, *gyltur* [ʒʏltɔr] gilded, *gagkur* [ʒaɪkɔr] cuckoo; in addition to the regular pronunciation one may often hear *gingu* [ɣɪŋɡo] went (pl.), *gingin* [ɣɪŋɪn] gone (part.).

(ii) in the combination *gj*: *gjörði* [ʒœrdɪ] did (sg.), *ringja* [rɪŋja] to ring.

4. [k] – before voiceless consonants: *hugsa* [hʊksa] to think, *lúgt* [lʊkt] low (n. sg.); see also 10.

5. [d] – before *n* in the declension of past participles: *drignun* [drɪdnʌn] drawn (masc. acc. sg.), *slagnir* [slɪdnɪr] mown (masc. nom. pl.), *flagnar* [flɔdnar] flown (fem. nom. acc. pl.).

Intervocalic *g* is not pronounced, except as in IV. Examples:

6. – (i) between *a*, *á*, *o*, *u*, *ø* and *a*: *flaga* [flɛ:a] to roof with turf, *lagan* [lɔ:an] low (masc. acc. sg.), *boga* [bʊ:a] bow (acc.), *dugandi* [du:andɪ] capable, *øga* [ø:a] increase.

(ii) finally after vowels: *eg* [e:] I, *felag* [fe:la] (fe:lea) company.

In a few preterite forms *g* is assimilated to a following *d*: *lögðu* [lœd:ɔ] laid (past pl.), *sögðu* [sœd:ɔ] said (past pl.), *dugði*, *dugðu* [dɔd:ɪ, dɔd:ɔ] was, were able, *plagði*, *plagðu* [plad:ɪ, plad:ɔ] was, were wont.

In many cases the glide consonants [j, v, w] appear, according to the character of the surrounding vowels. Examples:

7. [j] – (i) after *i*, *y*, *í*, *ý*, *ei*, *ey*, *oy*: *stuttlingur* [ˈstɔtɪlɪɔr] pleasant, *flýgur* [flɔɪɔr] lies, *eyga* [eɪa] eye.

(ii) between any vowel, except *ó*, *u*, *ú*, and a following *i*: *sligin* [slɪ:jɪn] mown, *logi* [lɔ:jɪ] flame, *degi* [de:jɪ] day (dat.); notice also: *legði* [leɪɪɪ] laid (past sg.), *segði* [seɪɪɪ] said (past sg.).

8. [v] – (i) between *a*, *á*, *e*, *æ*, *ø* and *u*: *dagur* [dɛ:vɔr] day, *lagur* [lɛ:vɔr] low, *legukalvi* [le:vɔ:kalvɪ] (full-grown) halibut, *tegur* [te:vɔr] baskets, *hagur* [hɔ:vɔr] high.

(ii) in a few cases analogical [v] occurs, e.g.: *lega* [le:və] place where something lies (cf. regular *legu* [le:vɔ] oblique sg., etc.), *tegu* [te:və] basket (cf. regular obl. sg. *tegu* [te:vɔ], etc.). The adjectival ending *-ugur* is pronounced [-ovɔr], as *kunnugur* [kon:ovɔr] well-known.

9. [w] – after *ó*, *u*, *ú*, except as in 8ii; this glide is not particularly prominent except in slow speech: *drógu* [drcɔwɪ] dragged (past pl.), *þýgu* [þauwɔ] twenty, *dagur* [du:wɪr] is able, *hagur* [hu:wɪr] mind.

10. – *g* is not heard before a consonant in a few words: *hugnalingur* [ˈhʊnə,lɪ:ɔr] comfortable, nice; also in the n. nom. sg. endings *-(t)igt*, *-ugt*: *merkigt* [mɛɣult] remarkable, *létugt* [li:tɔt] finished.

gg is pronounced:

1. [g:] – except as below: *glæggur* [glɛɛ:ɔr] bright.
2. [g:] – when final: *egg* [ɛg:] egg.
3. [j:] – before *i* and in the combination *ggi*, except finally: *eggid* [ɛj:ɪ] the egg, *síggja* [soj:a] to see.
4. [j:] – when final in the combination *ggi*: *síggj* [soj:] see, look (imper. sg.).

h is pronounced:

1. [h] – initially before a vowel: *hon* [ho:n] she, *hesin* [he:sɪn] this.
2. [k] – in the combination *hev*: *heat* [kveat] what, *hvi* [kvɔɪ] why.
3. [c] – in the combination *hj*, except as in 4: *hjá* [cɔa] beside, *hjól* [cɔul] wheel.
4. silent in the combination *hj* in a few words: *hjálpa* [jɔlpə] to help, *hjarta* [jartə] heart, *hjörtur* [jœrtɔr] stag, *Vilhjálmur* [vɪljɔlmɔr] William.

j is pronounced:

- [j] – in all positions: *ja* [jɛa] yes, *bjarga* [bjarga] to save, *víja* [vɪja] to wish, *berj* [berɪ] strike (imper. sg.). Note: *j* combines with a preceding *d*, *g*, *gg*, *h*, *k*, *s*, *t* to form fricatives, see the separate letters.

k is pronounced:

1. [k] – (i) initially and medially before consonants and when final: *knífur* [knɔɪvɔr] knife, *króna* [krɔnə] crown (coin), *oks* [ɔks] axe, *vakur* [vɛakrɪr] beautiful (masc. pl.), *eik* [aɪk] oak.

(ii) before vowels, except *e*, *i*, *y* and the digraph *ey*: *kóka* [kɔuka] to boil, *sukur* [su:kɔr] sugar.

2. [c] – (i) before the single vowels *e*, *i*, *y* and the digraph *ey*: *elaski* [ɛlscɪ] (I) love, *keil* [ce:tlɪ] kettle. Exceptions are mostly foreign words: *kílo* [ki:lɔ] kilo, *Kína* [ki:nə] China; native Faroese are: *kís* [kɪ:s] faint sound, *kísa* [kɪ:sə] pussy.

(ii) in the combination *kj*: *kjóði* [cɔul] dress, *kirkja* [cɪrɔa] church. On the combinations *sk* (initially) and *skj*, see under *s* 2iii, iv.

ké is pronounced:

1. [k:] – except as in 2: *klukka* [klʰk:ʰa] clock, *polítikk* [pol:ʰtʰk:] policy (acc.).
2. [c:] – before *i*: *polítikkinn* [pol:ʰtʰc:ɪn] the policy (acc.).

l is pronounced:

1. [l] – in all positions, except as below: *ljúsa* [lʰoysa] to shine, *halda* [halda] to hold, *mikil* [mi:cʰl] great.
2. [l] – (i) before a voiceless consonant*, except as in 4: *kálk* [kʰlk] lime, *alt* [alt] all (n. sg.).
(ii) finally after a voiceless consonant: *smýgrsl* [smʰʂl] salve, *tvætl* [tvatʰl] nonsense.
3. [ʌ] – between a diphthong with a palatal vowel as the second element and a voiced consonant*, and before [j]: *heilld* [kvoʂʌdʰ] rest, *svelgja* [svœʂʌja] to swallow.
4. [ɛ] – between a diphthong with a palatal vowel as the second element and a voiceless consonant*, and before [c]: *heilsa* [hæʂsa] to greet, *kjálki* [cɔʂcʰl] jaw.

ll is pronounced:

1. [dl] – when medial between vowels in most words: *fjallid* [fjaldl] the mountain, *illur* [ldʰor] wicked, *bolli* [bɔdl] basin.
2. [dl] – when final in most words: *fjall* [fjald] mountain, *ill* [ld] wicked (fem. sg.).
3. [l:] – in a few words: *bolli* [bɔl:] small dumpling, *bull* [bɔl:] bull (acc.) – baby language.
4. [l] – in a few words before a voiced consonant: *koma til illunar* [lʰnar] to quarrel, fall out.
5. [l] – in a few words before a voiceless consonant: *illska* [lʰska] anger, pain.

m is pronounced:

1. [m] – except before a voiceless consonant* and as in 4, 5: *modir* [mɔvur] mother, *lamin* [leamɪn] paralysed, *um* [ɔm] if, about.
2. [m] – before voiceless consonants*, except *k*: *kampiligur* [ʰampv:li:ʂor] pleasant, *heimsins* [hæʂmsɪns] of the world.

*Note. [b, d, ɛ], which only occur finally, do not devolve a preceding consonant; in this respect they are to be included in the category of voiced consonants.

3. [ɨ] – before *k*: *eymka* [eʂka] to complain, regret, *rímka* [rʰvʂka] to extend.

4. [n] – when final in the dative case ending: *mamminnun* [mam:nɔn] (to) the man, *tvéinnun óm* [tvæimɔn ɔn] (to) two ewes; also in *gjögnum* [jœgnɔn] through, *millum* [mɪldɔn] between.

5. [u] – before *n*: *gænni* [gaunɪ] fun, sport (dat.), *lamna* [launa] paralysed (fem. acc. sg.).

mm is pronounced:

- [m:] – in all positions: *mamma* [mam:a] mother, *damn* [dam:] pool (acc.).

n is pronounced:

1. [n] – initially and medially before vowels; medially before voiced consonants, except as in 3, 5 and finally after vowels: *nei* [næ] no, *andi* [andʰl] spirit, *kona* [ko:nan] the woman, *barnid* [badɪn] the child.
2. [ŋ] – (i) before voiceless consonants*, except [k], and as in 6: *mentan* [mœʂtan] culture, *ansa* [aŋsa] to look after.

- (ii) finally after a voiceless consonant: *mæsn* [mœsɪn] nonsense, *vætn* [vatɪn] water.

3. [ŋ] – before *g*: *mangur* [mœŋʂor] many a, *song* [soŋɛ] bed.

4. [ŋ] – before [k]: *bánka* [bœŋka] to knock, *onkur* [ɔŋkor] anyone, *langt* [leŋkt] long (n. sg.).

5. [ɲ] – between a diphthong with a palatal vowel as the second element and a voiced consonant*, and before [j]: *rygni* [rɔɲɪdʰl] tried (past sg.), *treingja* [trɔɲja] to need, *mangir* [mœɲɪr] many (masc.), *tingið* [tɪɲɪ] the parliament.

6. [ʃ] – between a diphthong with a palatal vowel as the second element and a voiceless consonant*, and before [c]: *rygni* [rɔʃɪtʰl] tried (supine), *skæinkja* [skœʂka] pour, *bonki* [bɔʃcʰl] bench (dat.), *bánkið* [bœʂcʰl] knock (imper. pl.).

7. [m, ɲ], see under *v* Note.

nn is pronounced:

1. [n:] – in all positions, except as in 2: *renna* [rœ:n:a] to run, *ánna* [œ:n:a] the stream (acc.), *menn* [mœ:n] men.

2. [dn] – after diphthongs: *eynna* [ɔɪdna] the island (acc.), *seinni* [sæɪdnʰl] later; also *tinna* [tɪdna] flint.

p is pronounced:

[p] – in all positions: *faðir* [pɑpʏ] father.

pp is pronounced:

[p:] – in all positions: *heppin* [hep:ɪn] lucky, *óhapp* [oʏhap:] accident.

r is pronounced:

1. [r] – except before a voiceless consonant*, and as in 3, 4: *rósa* [rɔsa] rose, *tari* [tear] seaweed, *stókur* [stɔkʏr] proud; final *r* is only slightly voiced, it often has a weak buzzing sound containing a suggestion of *z* as in English *zero*.

2. [ɾ] – before a voiceless consonant*: *lurta* [lɔɾtə] listen, *verpa* [veɾpa] lay (eggs).

3. [d] – in the combination *rn* in most words: *björn* [bjœdn] bear, *horn* [hɔdn] horn, *terna* [tedna] tern – but *terna* [terna] lady's maid, *torna* [tɔdna] to dry – but *torna* [tɔrna] to thunder.

When *r* and *n* come together in past participles or in adjectives as the result of inflexion, the pronunciation is always [rn], e.g. *farnir* [farnɪ] travelled (masc. pl.), *ernar* [ernar] haughty (fem. pl.); other words with [rn] are *torn* [tɔrn] tower, *ørn* [œrn] eagle.

4. silent – in a few words before *s* followed by another consonant, see also under *s* 3: *fyrsti* [fstɪ] first, *torskur* [tɔskɔr] cod, *versna* [vesna] to worsen; *r* of the plural ending is also silent before *n* of the suffix article: *hundarnir* [hɔndanɪr] the dogs, *kakurnar* [kə:kɔnar] the cakes; for forms like *bekurnar*, cf. also § 26, 2.

rr is pronounced:

[r:] – in all positions: *errin* [er:ɪn] haughty, *fjurr* [fɪr:] before (adv.). The tip of the tongue vibrates when [r:] is pronounced.

s is pronounced:

1. [s] – except as in 2, 3: *so* [so:] so, *hasa* [hæsa] that (fem. acc. sg.), *les* [le:s] read (imper. sg.), *stókur* [stɔkʏr] chair.

2. [ʃ] – (i) after *i*, *y*, *ei*, *oy* when short; a silent *t* may precede the *s*: *visti* [vɔʃtɪ] showed (past sg.), *nýtsla* [nɔʃla] use (subst.), *veisla* [vaiʃla] feast, *ojsti* [ɔʃtɪ] poured (past sg.).

*See note p. 18.

(ii) in the combination *sj*: *sjúkur* [ʃaukɔr] sick, *gresja* [gre:ja] to crunch.

(iii) initially in the combination *sk* before the single vowels *e*, *i*, *y* and the digraph *ey*: *skera* [fe:ra] to cut, *skip* [ʃi:p] ship, *skýldur* [ʃuldɔr] related (part.), *skeyt* [ʃeit] shot (past sg.); exceptions are *skinn* [ski:ɲo] shone (past pl.), *skinn* [ski:ɲ] shone (supine).

(iv) in the combination *skj*: *skjóta* [ʃɔta] to shoot.

(v) in the combination *stj* in some words: *stjúkþúpi* [ʃʏkʏpɔpɪ] step-father, *stjerna* [ʃœdna] star, *stjóri* [ʃɔurɪ] rope – but *stjóri* [stjɔurɪ] manager; [ʃ] is long in *Kristján* [krɪ:an] Christian (baptismal name).

3. [s] – when it assimilates a preceding *r*: *norskur* [nɔʃkɔr] Norwegian; it is long when final: *mars* [ma:s] March, *tíð borðs* [bɔ:s] at table.

ss is pronounced:

[s:] – in all positions: *vassa* [vas:a] paddle, wade, *foss* [fɔ:s] waterfall (acc.); exception: *þryss* [tɾɔ:] sixty.

t is pronounced:

1. [t] – except sometimes in the combination *stj* (see *s* 2v), and as below: *taka* [teaka] to take, *etandi* [e:tandɪ] edible, *át* [aut] out.

2. [c] – in the combination *tj*: *tjörn* [cœdn] tarn, *hejta* [he:ca] hero.

3. silent – before *sl*: *nýtsla* [nɔʃla] use (subst.), *veisla* [vaiʃla] feast; also commonly in *at* to (before an infin.): *at ivast* [a:ɪ:vast] to doubt.

tt is pronounced:

[t:] – in all positions: *fitur* [fɪt:ɔr] nice, *nátt* [nɔt:] night.

v is pronounced:

1. [v] – except as below: *veva* [ve:va] to weave, *torv* [tɔrv] peat.

2. [f] – before voiceless consonants*: *kvefst* [krɛfst] is required, *skveift* [skaɪft] wrong (n. sg.).

3. [u] – after *a*, *e*, *ø*, *o* before *n* it combines with the preceding vowel to form a diphthong: *havn* [haun] harbour, *nevnd* [neunɔ] committee, *nönn* [neun] names, *önnur* [ɔunɔr] oven, stove.

Note: *nv* has the pronunciation [m, ŋ] in: *nevndur* [nemɔr] named, *jænt* [jant] even (n. sg.). In a few words *v* is assimilated to the following consonant: *hönd* [hœnd:] head, *hövdu* [hœd:ɔ] had (pl.), *líeyga*

* See note p. 18.

[log:a] to enliven; likewise *ov* 'too' is often assimilated to the following consonant: *ov mikil* ['ɔm.i:cu] too big, but also ['o:m.i:cu]; *v* is not pronounced in: *heði* [heijɪ] had (sg.), *hvasu* [kɔs:ɔ] how; it is also silent after *ó*, its place being taken by the glide consonant [w]: *góv* [gɔwɔ] gave (pl.), *tjóvur* [tɔuwɔr] thief.

A note on the length of some consonants.

The consonants [l, m, n, ŋ, r] also [ɲ, ɳ, ʁ, ʃ] and [f, s] tend to be lengthened somewhat when occurring between a short vowel and another consonant. This lengthening, indicated here by [ː] after the letter, it is not particularly noticeable, except in very slow or emphatic speech: *skald* [skalːd] poet, *hálsur* [hɔːsɔr] neck, *kambur* [kamːbɔr] comb, *lampa* [lamːpa] lamp, *sandur* [sanːdɔr] sand, *sent* [sepːt] sent (supine), *langur* [leŋːgɔr] long, *ungr* [uŋːkt] young (n. sg.), *stýrði* [stɔɪrːdɪ] steered (past sg.), *lurta* [lɔɪːta] listen, *loft* [lɔftː] ceiling, *hœn* [hœsːŋ] chickens, poultry. This detail has not been marked elsewhere in this book, as the ordinary pronunciation [l] etc. is always acceptable provided it is made clearly.

Double consonants in unstressed syllables.

When occurring in unstressed syllables double consonants are reduced: *áðrenn* [ˈa:ɾn] before (conj.), *upp á gólu* [ɔpaˈgɛlv] up onto (the) floor, cf. *uppiðskoyti* addendum, addition, i.e. [ɔp + ˈɔʃkɔitɪ] > ɔ'pɔʃkɔitɪ] tending to become [ˈpɔʃkɔitɪ] in ordinary speech.

§ 6. A feature of the pronunciation of many districts is the softening of [k, p, t] to [g, b, d] when occurring between vowels or medially before [l] (except [tɪ]) and [r]; occasionally [c] occurs between vowels and is likewise softened to [j].

taka [ˈteaga] to take, *drepa* [ˈdre:ba] to kill, *sita* [ˈsi:da] to sit, *týkja* [ˈti:ja] to seem.

miklir [ˈmi:glɪr] great (m. pl.), *eppli* [ˈe:plɪ] potatoe, *vakrir* [ˈva:grɪr] beautiful (m. pl.), *feppi* [ˈfe:brɪ] fever (dat.), *eitrandi* [ˈaiðrandɪ] poisonous.

Another widespread feature is the weakening of [k, p, t] and [c] after voiceless consonants to [g, b, d] and [j].

raskur [ˈrasgɔr] energetic, *spyrja* [ˈspɪrja] to ask, *stærstur* [ˈsɛðsɔr] greatest, *norskur* [ˈnɔsgɔr] Norwegian.

dalka [ˈdɔlga] to dirty, *hvalpur* [ˈkvoɪbɔr] puppy, *vela* [ˈvɛlɔa] to cultivate, *mjólkinn* [ˈmjœlɪn] the milk.

sparka [ˈspaɾga] to kick, *harpa* [ˈhaɾpa] harp, *nera* [ˈneɾa] to touch, *kerkja* [ˈceɾja] church.

bankur [ˈbaŋgar] (money) banks, *entur* [ˈeŋɔr] wild ducks, *lampa* [ˈlamːpa] lamp, *teinkja* [ˈtɔjja] to think.

The learner may well adopt the above systems, which in combination with the values of the vowels and other consonants as already given, correspond to the pronunciation of the Tórshavn area. This pronunciation may well one day become the recognised standard.

Among other common differences in pronunciation may be noted:

a) in Streymoy north of Tórshavn, Eysturoy and the Northern Islands one hears [ci] for [ai]: *eind* [ˈciŋd] unit, *bein* [ˈbɔin] leg; and similarly [c] for [a] before [ɲ, ʃc]: *dreingir* [ˈdrɔŋɪr] boys, *einkja* [ˈɔŋca] widow, — this latter feature also occurring in Vágur and Suðuroy.

b) in Streymoy north of Tórshavn, Eysturoy, the Northern Islands and also in Vágur one hears [eu] for [ɔu]: *sól* [ˈseul] sun.

c) south of Skopun Firth *a* before *ng*, *nk* is pronounced [a]: *langur* [ˈlaŋgɔr] long, *banki* [ˈbaŋɪ] (1) knock; short *ó* is pronounced [ɔ]: *ódn* [ˈɔdn] tempest.

d) in Suðuroy, where the dialect has many peculiarities marking it out sharply from the others, *ó* before *gv* is pronounced [ɔ]: *nógv* [ˈnɔgv] much; short *æ* is pronounced [ɛ]: *heð* [ˈheɛ] height.

§ 7. Omission of consonants and assimilation.

Difficult consonant clusters arising as the result of inflexion are simplified in pronunciation by the omission of the first or second consonant.

fjalls [ˈfjaɪls], *burns* [ˈbaɪns], *vatns* [ˈvaɪns] gen. sg. of *fjall* mountain, *burn* child, *vann* water.

hjálpi [ˈjɔɪtɪ], *grkti* [ˈgrktɪ], *sigldi* [ˈsɪldɪ] past sg. of *hjálpa* to help, *grkja* to write poetry, *sigla* to sail; *fýgldi* past sg. of *fýgla* to catch birds, *fýgldi* past sg. of *fýgja* 'to follow' are both pronounced [ˈfɪldɪ]; *ynskti* [ˈɪnʃtɪ] past sg. of *ynskja* to wish (cf. below), *myrkt* [ˈmɪkt] n. sg. of *myrkur* dark.

The cluster *skt* gives a) [st] in words of more than one syllable, b) [kst] in monosyllables.

a) *eingilskt* [ˈaɪŋɪlʃt], *føroyiskt* [ˈfø:ɾɪʃt], *russiskt* [ˈrɔsɪʃt] — n. sg. of

eingilskur English, *føroyskur* Faroese, *russiskur* Russian; *íslendiskt* from *íslendiskur* "Icelandic" is pronounced [o]lɛɪst].

b) *beiskt* [bajkst], *dansk* [daŋkst], *fesk* [fɛkst], *fransk* [fraŋkst], *frísk* [frɔkst], *ras* [rakst], *spansk* [spaŋkst], *svensk* [svɛŋkst], *týsk* [tɔkst] – n. sg. of *beiskur* bitter, *danskur* Danish, *feskur* fresh, *franskur* French, *frískur* healthy, *ras* energetic, *spanskur* Spanish, *svenskur* Swedish, *týskur* German.

Exceptions: *irsk* [ɔst], *nors* [nɔst] – n. sg. of *irskur* Irish, *norskur* Norwegian.

In the formation of compounds phonetic changes take place in accordance with the general rules of pronunciation if the compound is treated phonetically as one word, as is usual with old compounds.

a) assimilation: *altíð* [a]tɔɪ always, *kinnklovi* [ɔvɪklo:v] corner of the mouth; b) vocalic change: *húskallur* [hʏskadlɔɪ] farm-hand, *keyrstaður* [ɛpsteavɔɪ] (trading) town, *roykstova* [rɔksto:və] "smoke-room" in the old Faroese house; c) assimilation and vocalic change: *sólskin* [sɔɛ]un sunshine, *tilkomin* [tɪlko:mɪn] grown up, *útsýningur* [ʏs:v:n:uɔɪ] south-west.

When a cluster of consonants arises as a result of composition, a consonant may be dropped in pronunciation: *Egystes* [esne:s] East Ness, *øvundsjúkur* [ø:vɔŋʃaukɔɪ] envious; also in the ancient compound *andlit* [anli:t] face.

An inflexional *r* in the first element of a compound is often omitted in pronunciation: *vetrartíð* [ve:trətɔɪ] winter time.

Note. As purely orthographic practice, it is not unusual to simplify double consonants if, as a result of inflexion etc., they come to stand before another consonant: *drukkin* (sg.) drunken, *drukni* (masc. pl.), *flenna* to laugh, *flenti* laughed (past sg.), *offur* sacrifice, *ofrið* the sacrifice. However, usage in this connection is not uniform and forms like *drukknir* etc. are also common.

§ 8. Changes similar to those described in § 7 may also take place when separate words come together in connected speech. In quick speech the length of vowels is, naturally, often reduced. Examples: *eitt sindur* [ai:sundɔɪ] a little, *effir veginum* [etv'e:nɔn] along the road *er tad tad?* [eta'tea] is that so? *hon kom aftur* [honkom'at:ɪ] she came back, *fert tú?* [fɛrtu] are you going? *ger so væl!* [fɛso:vɛal] please! *eg tók hann við* [etɔukan'vi:] I took him with (me), *eg veit ikki* [e'vɛi:]

I don't know, dunno, *roypa hana!* [rɔɪpanə] call her! *tad haldi eg* [ta'haldɪje] I think so.

Faroese makes abundant use of semantic stress, thus in the sentence *eg má siggja hann fyrst* I must see him first, an emphatic stress may fall on any one of the five words, precisely as in English.

§ 9. Intonation.

The following features strike the English ear as noteworthy and characteristic.

a) Assertions. Short assertions are spoken with a level intonation until the significant stress is reached, when the pitch falls abruptly. In longer assertions the pitch rises at the first emphatic syllable, then descends gradually to fall abruptly at the last significant stress.

Hann for til sjós. *Hon er komin.*
[han four tɪ] [ɛs:] [hon er'ko:mɪn]

He went to sea. *She has come.*

Hann var altíð so góður við hana. *Og so for alt hit í kirkjuna.*
[han var'altɔɪ so'gɔɪvɔɪr vi'ana:] [o so four alt'hit: i'kɪɔjuna]

He was always so fond of her.

And so all the rest went into the church.

For further examples see the connected passage below.

b) Questions. Questions in Faroese have a rising intonation throughout; this applies equally to sentences containing a special interrogative word.

Hver er tad? *Hví fara týgun avstad?* *Hvat ger hann í Havn?*
[kvɛr e'tea] [kvɔɪ'fɛara tɪjɔn a'ista] [kvɛat'je:r an i'havn]

Who's that? Why are you going away? What's he doing in Tórshavn?

Hvussu leingi hefur tú verið her?
[koso ʎɔɲɹ hevor tau verɹ ʎe:r]

Hefur tú verið leingi her?
[hevor tau verɹ ʎɔɲɹ he:r]

How long have you been here?

Have you been here long?

Tú ert fiskimaður?
[tuu ɛft ʃiscumeavor]

Kona tygum í dag?
[koma tɪɔn ɪda]

Meira?
[maɪra]

You're a fisherman?

Are you coming to-day?

More?

Hann er byttur, ikki samnheit?
[han er ʔoyt:or, ɪɹ ʎan:ait]

Tygum eru ikki Føroyingur, ha?
[ʔi:ɔn ɛro ɪɹ ʃɔ:rɪŋɔr, ʎa]

He's daft, isn't he?

You're not a Faroeman, are you?

The following specimen illustrates the intonation of a connected passage; it is the beginning of the piece in Section 2 of the Reader, p. 169.

Sigmundur fór at boda kristni í Føroyum.
[ʃɪgmɔndɔr fɔr a ʔbo:a ʎrɪstnɪ ɪ ʃɔ:ɹɔɪ]

Sigmundur set out to preach Christianity in the Faroes.

Tá id nú tók at vára, kom kongur ein dag upp á mál við Sigmund
[ʔaɪ nu tɔk a ʔvára, kɔm kɔŋɔr aɪn ɪda ɔpa'mal ɪ ʃɪgmɔnd]

When now spring was approaching, the king one day spoke to Sigmund

og segði, at hann vildi senda hann vestur til Føroya at kristna tað fólk,
o ʃeɪɹ at han ɪldɪ senda han ʔvestɔr tɪ ʃɔ:ɹɔɪ a ʎrɪstna ta ʃɔɛɭk,

and said that he wished to send him west to the Faroes to convert the

sum har búið. Sigmundur bar seg undan hesum starvi, men jálhadi
som hear ʔbuuɪ. ʃɪgmɔndɔr bæ ʃe ʎɔndan he:son ʃta:rɪ, men ʎɔt:ajɪ

people who lived there. Sigmundur excused himself from this task, but

tá unnsóður kongi tað, id hann vildi. Kongur setti hann tá til at
ʔa ɔŋ ʎɔɹɪ ʎɔɲɹ ʔea, ɔr han ʔldɪ. ʎɔŋɔr ʃet:ɪ han ʔa tɪ a

then he later promised the king to do as he wished. The king then appoint-

vera valdsmaður gjeir øllum øggjimum og fekk honum prestar til at skera
ve:ra ʔvalsməvor:ɪ:vɪr ʔɔɔɔɔn ʎɔ:ɔnɔn o ʃek: honɔn ʔrestar tɪ a ʃkɔ:ɹa

ted him to be ruler over all the islands and got him priests to baptise the

folkið og kenna teim tað fremsta í teirri kristnu trúnni.
ʃɔɛɭɪ o ʔen:a taɪm ta ʃremsta ɪ taɪ:r ɪ ʎrɪstnɔ ʔru:nɪ.]

people and teach them the most important things in the Christian faith.

Sigmundur sigldi nú, tá id hann var ferðabúgvin, og ferðin gekst honum
[ʃɪgmɔndɔr ʃldɪ nuu, tɔaj han var ʃe:rəbúgvɪn, o: ʃe:ru ʎekst honɔn]

Now, when he was ready, Sigmundur set sail, and the voyage went

vel. Tá id hann kom til Føroya, steundi hann bóndunum til tings í
ʔvel. tɔaj haŋ kɔm tɪ ʃɔ:ɹɔɪ, ʃteundɪ han ʔbɔndɔnɔn tɪ ʔtɪŋs ɪ

well for him. When he reached the Faroes, he summoned the husband-

Streymoy, og har kom stor mannfjöld saman.
ʃtreɪmɔɪ, o: hear kɔm ʃtɔr ʔmaŋfjɔɔɔ ʃəaman]

men to a thing in Streymoy, and a great crowd assembled there.