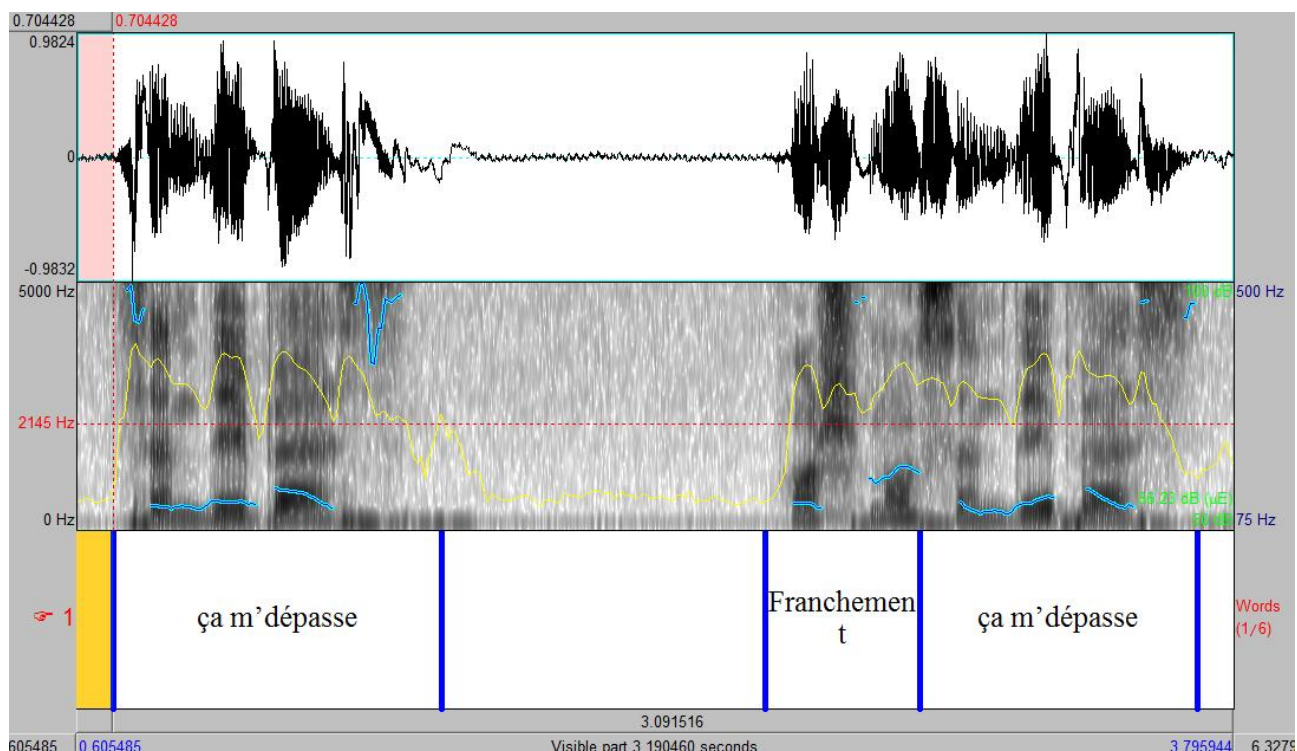


Hello Mr. Wells

I am a French native student, and I may help you with the intonation of 'Cela me dépasse'

I may be wrong, but it seems to me that the most common intonation is a low fall – rise – fall (ça – m'dé – passe). I will say /samdepas/ (we will say *ça* /sa/ instead of *Cela*, and we won't pronounce the schwa of *me*). Normally, the stress should be on the last syllable of the rhythmic group (/samde'pas/), but here the /de/ syllable might get some sort of stress.

Indeed, I recorded myself saying 'ça m'dépasse', with Praat. I recorded first 'Cela me dépasse' and then 'franchement, cela me dépasse'. Here is the spectrogram with the pitch (in blue) and the intensity (in yellow) of the sequence /samdepas/. The intonation pattern is even more striking when the sequence is preceded by 'franchement, ' :



I also recorded another speaker (a female speaker) :

