

Caroline Féry: Prosodic structure (schedule, literature, readings, requirements for credits)

First class: Role of prosody for sentence comprehension

The course begins with a discussion of data illustrating the role of prosody for sentence comprehension. Models of sentence comprehension are traditionally syntax-oriented, but adding prosodic constraints to lexical constraints, contextual constraints, locality and phrase-level constraints (see Gibson & Perlmutter 1998 for an overview of these constraints) is very useful.

1. Attachment

Anna met the teacher who shouted at her yesterday

Peter looked at the hunter with the binoculars

The soccer fan who the player insulted was drunk/The soccer fan who insulted the player was drunk.

Flying kites is great/flying kites are great

2. Scope ambiguities

Scope inversion in German

Beide sind nicht gekommen.

‘It is not the case that both came (but maybe just one of them came)’

‘Both of them did not come’

It is not because Mary worked all night that she is tired (but because she also jogged three hours/in fact she is full of energy)

3. Severe garden path sentences

The horse passed the barn fell...

While Anna was knitting the socks fell down

4. Gapping

Anna is riding and Peter is fixing a bike

Anna took the children to the zoo and Peter to the swimming-pool.

When is it possible to disambiguate these sentences? What does the prosody do exactly? Experimental results will be presented and generalizations drawn.

Readings:

Fodor, Janet D. (2002b): Psycholinguistics Cannot Escape Prosody. Proceedings of the Speech Prosody 2002 Conference. Aix-en-Provence, S. 83-88 [http://www.lpl.univ-aix.fr/sp2002/pdf/fodor.pdf]

Warren, Paul, Esther Grabe & Francis Nolan (1995) Prosody, Phonology and Parsing in Closure Ambiguities. *Language and Cognitive Processes* 10. 457-486.

Additional literature:

Bever, Thomas (1970): The cognitive basis for linguistic structures. In: Hayes, John R. (Hg.): *Cognition and the Development of Language*. New York: Wiley, S. 279-352.

Gibson, T & N. Perlmutter (1998) Constraints on Sentence Comprehension. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences* 2. 262-268.

Second and third classes

Once it is understood that prosody divides sentences into smaller chunks of speech, some algorithms of syntax/prosody mapping will be looked at. The emphasis of these models is that syntax is decisive for prosodic phrasing. Four big classes of algorithms have been proposed in the literature. We will look at how they differ, and which one(s) make(s) the best predictions for which aspect of the prosodic structure:

1. Relation-based models (Nespor & Vogel 1986): syntactic categories map prosodic categories (small to small, large to large).
2. Edge-based models (Chen 1987, Selkirk 1986): edges of syntactic constituents correspond to edges of prosodic constituents.
3. Alignment and Wrap in OT (McCarthy & Prince 1993, Selkirk 2000, Truckenbrodt 1999): reranking of constraints can express typological differences.
4. Cyclic approaches (Ishihara 2003, Wagner 2005): prosodic structure is built cyclically.

Readings

- Chen, Matthew Y. 1987 The syntax of Xiamen tone sandhi. *Phonology Yearbook* 4: 109-150.
- Selkirk, E.O. (1986) On derived domains in sentence phonology *Phonology Yearbook* 3, 371-405.
- Truckenbrodt, Hubert (1999) On the Relation between Syntactic Phrases and Phonological Phrases. *Linguistic Inquiry* 30:2. 219-255.

Additional literature:

- Ishihara, Shinichiro (2003) Intonation and interface conditions. Doctoral Dissertation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- McCarthy, John J. & Alan S. Prince (1993) Generalized Alignment. In Geert Booij & Jaap van Marle (eds.) *Yearbook of Morphology 1993*. Dordrecht: Kluwer. 79-153.
- Nespor, Marina & Vogel, Irene (1986): *Prosodic phonology*. Dordrecht: Foris.
- Wagner, Michael (2005) *Prosody and Recursion*. Cambridge: Doctoral Dissertation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Chapter 1-4.

Fourth class: The role of information structure on prosody

This class will start with a short review of Gussenhoven's Sentence Accent Assignment Rule SAAR (1992) and Cinque's (1993) model of prosodic constituency as a consequence of sentence accents.

But then it will be shown that not only the syntax is playing a role for the placement of accent, but also information structural notions, like focus and givenness. This more semantico-pragmatic component of grammar is highly relevant for prosody. Phenomena like Second Occurrence Focus (Beaver et al. 2004), and the expression of Givenness (Schwarzschild 1999) have improved our understanding of prosody.

Readings

- Gussenhoven, Carlos (1992) Sentence accents and argument structure. In Iggy Roca (Ed.) *Thematic Structure. Its role in grammar*. Foris. Berlin. 79-106.

Rooth, Mats (1992) A Theory of Focus Interpretation. *Natural Language Semantics* 1. 75-116.

Féry, Caroline & Samek-Lodovici, Vieri (2006): Focus projection and prosodic prominence in nested foci. In: *Language* 82.1. (www.sfb632.uni-potsdam.de/homes/fery/aktuell.html)

Additional literature:

Büring, Daniel (2001) Let's Phrase it! Focus, Word Order, and Prosodic Phrasing in German Double Object Constructions. In Gereon Müller and Wolfgang Sternefeld (eds.), *Competition in Syntax*. New York: Mouton de Gruyter, 69-105. (www.linguistics.ucla.edu/people/buring/webpage/basics.html#papers)

Cinque, Guglielmo (1993): A null theory of phrase and compound stress. In: *Linguistic Inquiry* 24/2, S. 239-297.

Schwarzschild, Roger (1999) GIVENness, AvoidF and Other Constraints on the Placement of Accent. *Natural Language Semantics* 7. 141-177.

Fifth class: The distinction between prosodic phrasing and pitch accent scaling

New models have studied more systematically the accents' pitch scaling. Selkirk (2002, 2006) proposes two different focus markings, F which corresponds to narrow focus and f standing for informational focus. Second Occurrence Focus and more phonetically oriented works show that pitch scaling is an important component of prosody which requires extensive experiments.

Reading

Selkirk, Elisabeth. 2002. Contrastive FOCUS vs. presentational focus: Prosodic evidence from right node raising in English. In *Speech Prosody 2002: Proceedings of the 1st International Conference on Speech Prosody*, Aix-en-Provence, 643-646.

Additional literature:

Féry, Caroline & Shinichiro Ishihara (2005) Interpreting Second Occurrence Focus. Ms. Potsdam. (www.sfb632.uni-potsdam.de/homes/fery/aktuell.html)

Féry, Caroline & Hubert Truckenbrodt (2005) Sisterhood and Tonal Scaling. *Studia Linguistica*. Special Issue "Boundaries in intonational phonology". 59.2/3. 223-243. (www.sfb632.uni-potsdam.de/homes/fery/aktuell.html)

Laniran, Yetunde O. & G.N. Clements (2003) Downstep and high raising: interacting factors in Yoruba tone production. *Journal of Phonetics* 31. 203-250.

Truckenbrodt, Hubert (2002) Upstep and embedded register levels. *Phonology* 19. 77-120.

Sixth class and seventh classes: Typological issues

The issues addressed in the previous classes are put into a typological perspective. In these classes, we will look at well-studied languages, like Chichewa, Japanese, Hungarian, Italian and Mandarin Chinese. It will be shown that languages have different strategies as how to use prosody in phrasing and pitch scaling. Some even do not use prosody at all for focus and givenness. Some generalizations will be drawn.

Readings:

Büring, Daniel (2006) Towards a Typology of Focus Realization. Ms. UCLA.
(www.linguistics.ucla.edu/people/buring/webpage/basics.html#papers)

Additional literature:

Ishihara, Shinichiro (2004) Prosody by Phase: Evidence from Focus. Intonation–Wh-scope Correspondence in Japanese. In: *Interdisciplinary Studies in Information Structures 1. Working Papers of the SFB 632* S. Ishihara, M. Schmitz & A. Schwarz (Eds.). Potsdam.

Kanerva, Jonni M. (1990): Focusing on Phonological Phrases in Chichewa. In: Inkelas, Sharon/ Zec, Draga (Hgg.) *Phonology-Syntax-Interface*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, S.145-161.

Samek-Lodovici, Vieri. (2005) Prosody-Syntax Interaction in the Expression of Focus. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*.

Szendrői, Kriszta (2003) A stress-based approach to the syntax of Hungarian focus. (2003). *The Linguistic Review* 20. 37-78.

Xu, Yi (1999) Effects of tone and focus on the formation and alignment of F0 contours. *Journal of Phonetics*, 27: 55-105.(www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/yi/research.html)

Eighth class: Processing again

On the basis of the material of the class, the question will be asked again of the role of prosody in the processing of language. Which kinds of experiments can reveal us what prosody does to facilitate sentence comprehension? Is Fodor's Implicit Prosody theory on the right track?

Readings:

Wagner, Michael (2005) *Prosody and Recursion*. Cambridge: MIT Diss. Chapter 5.

Watson, Duane, and Edward Gibson (2005) Intonational phrasing and constituency in the language production and comprehension. *Studia Linguistica* 59.

Additional literature:

Carlson, Katy, Clifton, Charles & Frazier, Lyn (2001): Prosodic Boundaries in Adjunct Attachment. In: *Journal of Memory and Language* 45, S. 58-81

Schafer, Amy, Katy Carlson, Charles Clifton & Lyn Frazier (2000) Focus and the interpretation of pitch accent: Disambiguating embedded questions. *Language and Speech* 43. 75-105.

Snedeker Jesse & John Trueswell (2003) Using prosody to avoid ambiguity: Effects of speaker awareness and referential context. *Journal of Memory and Language*. 48. 103-130.

Requirements for credits

Either a classical study of the relevant literature or a small experiment to be discussed with me.