

L. Varga: BMA-ANGD-CNy4.01 The Phonology of Intonation and Stress in the English Sentence. Spr 2017

TWO IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO:

1. Please print out this booklet and always bring it with you to the intonation classes.
2. Please download the Praat program (Boersma & Weenink: *Praat: Doing phonetics by computer*) for yourself, it is available at: www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/

PART I. THE TRADITIONAL BRITISH (CONTOUR-BASED) APPROACH TO INTONATION

Unit 1: Preliminaries

Read : Tench 1996, Ch 1, sections 1.1., 1.2., 1.3.

Prosody is the term for those aspects of speech that typically apply to a level above the segments, and so *prosodic features* are also known as *suprasegmental features*, with pitch, loudness and duration being the main ones.

N.B. 1. *Pitch* is a perceptual (= auditory) category: perceived height of the speaking voice. From a physiological (= articulatory) point of view, pitch corresponds to the *rate of vibration of the vocal cords*. From a physical (= acoustic) point of view it corresponds to *fundamental frequency* (F_0), measured in Hz (Hertz).

2. *Loudness* is a perceptual category: perceived strength of the speaking voice. Its physiological counterpart is *breath-force*, its physical counterpart is *intensity*, measured in dB (decibels).

3. *Duration* (length), measured in ms (milliseconds)

Intonation is a part of sentence prosody. It primarily involves the use of *pitch*. Pitch can change according to certain fixed patterns, these variations can be called *tones*. They can be *level* (= *static*) *tones* with steady pitch, e.g. High Level, or *contour* (= *kinetic*) *tones* with pitch movement, e.g. Fall, Rise, Fall-Rise, Rise-Fall, etc.

N.B. Warning! The term *tone* is ambiguous. In modern phonology it also refers to the primitive building blocks (either H or L) of contour tones, e.g. HL represents a Fall, LHL a Rise-Fall., see Part ii.

Intonation is the superimposition of tones on strings of syllables in spoken sentences (= in *utterances*). The sequences of tones superimposed on a sentence form units of intonation, called *intonation phrases* (= *IPs*). The tones following one another in the same IP constitute the *intonation contour* (= *pitch contour* or *tune*) of the IP. The intonation of a spoken sentence affects the interpretation (meaning, modality, attitude) of the spoken sentence. In (1a, b) there is a high level tone, followed by a falling or rising tone, and while (1a) is a statement, (1b) is a yes-no question.

Intonation is systemic, it involves 3 choices

(6) Halliday's (1967) theory of intonation, 3 subsystems, provided by 3 choices:

tonality: a. | I'm going into town this \morning. |

b. | I'm going into \town | this /morning. |

tonicity: a. | What are you going to \do tonight. | b. | What are you going to do to \night. |

c. | What are \you going to do tonight. |

tone: a. | I a\gree. | b. | I a^gree. | c. | I a /gree. |

Unit 2: Division of the speech flow into IPs (Halliday's choice of tonality):

Read: Tench 1996. Ch.2.

Neutral tonality

A clause that consists of 1 and only 1 IP is regarded as neutral in tonality.

(1) | A 'dog is a 'man's best \friend. |

Basis: functional equivalence of IP (phonological unit), clause (syntactic unit), and information unit (semantic unit).

Marked tonality

When IPs do not coincide with whole clauses.

(2) | I'm going into \town | this /morning. |

(3)a. | He 'did. I \saw it. | b. | 'Daisy! Good \morning dear. |

The usual maximum number of stresses in an IP is 5.

(6)a. | The 'children wrote 'postcards to their 'parents from \camp. |

b. | The 'office 'sends the 'students their 'grants in Oc\tober. |

c. | The 'office 'sends the 'foreign 'students their /grants | in Oc\tober. |

(7) | The 'train ar'riving at 'platform /two | is the 'ten 'twenty from 'Swansea to 'London \Paddington. |

Further cases of marked tonality**LISTS**

(8) | He could speak /English, | /French | and \German. |

(10)a. | We want /red, | /white | and \blue flags, please. | segregatory coordination

b. | We want 'red, 'white and \blue flags please. | integratory coordination

OR-CONSTRUCTIONS

(YN-Questions vs. Alternative Questions)

(61)a. | Will it be 'more or less on /time?! | b. | Will it be /more | or \less on time?! |

(62)a. | Do you 'want one or two /books?! | b. | Do you want /one | or \two books?! |

MARKED THEMES

(11) | This /morning | I'm 'going into \town. |

(12)a. | Last ^night | you 'came in too \late. |

b. | What^ever your ex^cuse, | you should be 'in by e^leven. |

c. | These i^deas | you must re^ject. |

d. | If you go 'out in the /evening, | I want you 'in by e^leven. |

INORGANIC (EXTRA-SENTENTIAL (i.e. E.S.) PARTS

Disjuncts (e.g. *unfortunately, briefly, frankly*), conjuncts (e.g. *nevertheless, however*), viewpoint adjuncts (e.g. *technically, from a personal point of view*), vocatives (e.g. *darling*), quoting clauses (e.g. *he said*), final epithets (e.g. *the bastard*). Inorganic parts are normally in separate IP when in utterance-initial and medial position. When in final position, they either have an IP of their own or are incorporated into the preceding IP.

(13)a. |Ho^Vwever, | he 'ran the 'mile in 'four 'minutes.| <CONJUNCTS>

b. | He 'ran the 'mile, | ho^wever, | in 'four 'minutes.|

(15)a. | Po^Vlitically, | the de^Vcision was a 'clever one.| <VIEWPOINT ADJUNCTS>

b. | The de^Vcision, | from a po^Vlitical point of view, | was a 'clever one.|

(16)a. | Miss ^VSmith, | can you 'help me?! b. | Can 'you, | Miss ^VSmith, | 'help me?!

<VOCATIVES>

(161)a. | I've 'never 'read it, though.| ≈ | I've 'never 'read it, | ^though.| <CONJUNCTS>

b. | You must 'read it, of course.| ≈ | You must 'read it, | of ^rcourse.| <DISJUNCTS>

c. | He's 'not going to 'read it, you know.| ≈ | He's 'not going to 'read it, | you ^know.|

<STYLE INDICATORS>

d. | They've al^ready 'read it, however.| ≈ | They've al^ready 'read it, | ho^wever.|

<CONJUNCTS>

e. | I've be^gun to 'read it, at least.| ≈ | I've be^gun to 'read it, | at ^rleast.|

<DISJUNCTS>

f. | We're in a 'poor 'shape, economically.| ≈ | We're in a 'poor 'shape, | ecoⁿomically.|

<VIEWPOINT ADJUNCTS>

g. | He 'drives, normally.| ≈ | He 'drives, | ^rnormally.| ≠ | He 'drives 'normally.|

<DISJUNCTS>

h. | I 'couldn't 'speak to him, frankly.| ≈ | I 'couldn't 'speak to him, | ^rfrankly.|

≠ | I 'couldn't 'speak to him 'frankly.|

<DISJUNCTS>

i. | They're 'here, John.| ≈ | They're 'here, | ^rJohn.| <VOCATIVES>

j. | 'Don't 'run, he said.| ≈ | 'Don't 'run, | he ^rsaid.| <QUOTING CLAUSES>

k. | He 'shouldn't have 'done it, the fool.| ≈ | He 'shouldn't have 'done it, | the ^rfool.

<EPITHETS>

TAGS

Checking vs. copy tags

(17)a. | 'John's going 'out, | 'isn't he?! b. | 'John's going 'out, | 'isn't he?! Checking tags

(18) | 'John's going 'out, | 'is he?! (19) | 'John's going 'out, | is he?! Copy tags

Tonality contrasts in grammar

DEFINING AND NON-DEFINING ITEMS

(21)a. | My 'brother who 'lives in Nai^Vrobil b. | My ^Vbrother, | who 'lives in Nai^Vrobil

(22)a. | The 'man dressed in 'black | stood 'up.| b. | The ^Vman, | dressed in ^Vblack, | stood 'up.|

(23)a. | The 'man in ^Vblack | stood 'up.| b. | The ^Vman, | in ^Vblack, | stood 'up.|

APPOSITION

- (25)a. | 'Tom /Jones, | the /singer, | comes from South \Wales.|
 = a' | 'Tom VJones, | that is the Vsinger, | comes from South \Wales.|
 b. | 'Tom Jones the Vsinger | comes from South \Wales.|
- (29)a. | They con'sidered Miss 'Hartley a 'very good \teacher.|
 b. | They con'sidered Miss \Hartley, | a 'very good \teacher.|
- (32)a. | The 'news that the 'troops would be Vleaving | has been an \nounced.|
 b. | The Vnews, | that the 'troops would be Vleaving, | has been an \nounced.|
- NEGATIVE DOMAIN
- (41)a. | I 'didn't /come | because he \told me.| b. | I 'didn't come because he Vtold me.|
- (42)a. | He 'didn't /go | so that he could 'get a pro \motion.|
 b. | He 'didn't go so that he could 'get a proVmotion.|
- REPORT CLAUSES
- (43)a. | He 'said he would \come.| ~ | He would \come, he said|
 b. | Did he 'say he would ,come?|
 c. | I re'ported that they had 'taken a de \cision.| ~ | They'd 'taken a de \cision, I reported.|
 d. | They 'asked if he 'knew the de \cision.|
 e. | He 'didn't know whether they had al'ready de \cided.|
 f. | We 'very much 'hope they will \think about it.|
- (44) | He ,said, | "I'll \come".|
- (45)a. | And then he'll 'say who's \coming.|
 b. | And then he'll ,say, | "Who's \coming."|

Unit 3: Locating the nucleus within the IP (Halliday's choice of *tonicity*)

Read: Tench 1996. Ch.3.

The function of the nucleus (tonic) is to indicate the focus of information or the end of new information.

(1) Can you break an apple in two?

Neutral tonicity

(2) To have the tonic (nuclear) syllable within the last open-class item in the IP. (Open-class items are always lexical items.)

(3) Can you 'break an 'apple in /two?!

Lexical items (= content words), form open-classes mainly but some of them are closed-system items (e.g. *here – there, now – then, today – tonight*). Grammatical items (= function words) are closed-system items.

Broad focus = the whole IP is new information; usually with neutral tonicity:

(4) | I 'think I'll 'go and have a 'cup of \tea.|

(5) | "Where are you 'going on your \holidays?!

- (6) | 'Look at that \man up there. | (6) | Did you 'have a nice /time? |
 (7) | This 'chap lived in erm a 'semi-detached ^house | and next /door | there was a /man | who'd
 'just bought a new /car | and he was \telling me | that one \morning | he was 'looking through the
 ^window | ...

Narrow focus = some part of the IP is new, some given; may occur with neutral tonicity, as in (9B) or (99B), but usually has marked tonicity, as in (10B), (11B), (12B).

- (9) A: | I 'think I'll 'go and have a 'cup of \tea. |
 B: | Well, 'why don't you come and have a spot of \lunch? |
 (10) A: | 'Where are you 'going on your \holidays? |
 B: | To \Italy. | And where are you going on \your holidays? |
 (11) A: | Did you 'have a nice /time? |
 B: | We had an \awful time. |
 (12) A: | 'Look at that \man up there. |
 B: | And look at \that man. |
 (99) A: | 'Look at that \woman up there. |
 B: | 'Look at that \man up there. |

Given information is recoverable from the linguistic context or the situation or from general knowledge. (13) | He 'bought a /car | and he al'lowed his \wife to drive. |

Marked tonicity

cf. (10B), (11B), (12B), (13) above.

CONTRAST

- (14)a. Neutral: | I've been asking for \ages. |
 b. Marked (i): | I \have been asking for ages. | polarity
 c. Marked (ii): | I have \been asking for ages. | aspect/tense
 (15) | It's not what \I think | but what \you think. | pronoun
 (16) | Think of what you can put \into it | not what you can get \out of it. | preposition
 (17) | Re\member | I said \if. | conjunction
 (18) | 'That's what you're /exporting | and we're \importing. | morpheme
 (19) | He 'got a new /bookshelf | but what we 'need is a new book \case. |
 2nd element of compound

AVOIDING TONIC ON REPEATED ITEM

- (21)a. Neutral: | 'Wales /three, | 'Belgium \one. |
 b. Marked: | 'Belgium /one, | \Wales one. |
 (22) "751-281" = | "seven five /one | two \eight one |

PRESENTATION SENTENCES = EVENT SENTENCES

- (23)a. | The \doctor's coming. | ~ | The 'doctor's \running. |
 b. | An \accident has happened. | ~ | An 'accident is being in\vestigated. |
 c. | Don't \worry. | \John's going. | ~ | 'John's \eating. |

- d. | A \question was raised. | ~ | A 'question was \answered. |
 e. | The \postman called. |
 f. | The \chimney's falling down. |
 g. | Dis\cussions took place. |

FINAL ADVERBIALS AND INORGANIC ELEMENTS

(24) Essential information: a. | The 'books are \here. | b. | Put the books \here. |

Circumstantial information: c. | We've 'got some \books here. |
 = | We've 'got some \books | /here. |

Also *there, now, today, yesterday*, etc., cf. also (161) in Unit 2.

(25)a. | Let's \go now. | ≈ b. | Let's \go | /now. | ≠ c. | Let's go \now. |

(26)a. | Let's \go there. | ≈ b. | Let's \go | /there. | ≠ c. | Let's go \there. |

(27)a. | That's \all for today. | ≈ b. | That's \all | for to,day. | ≠ c. | That's 'all for to\day. |

(28)a. | I saw \John yesterday. | ≈ b. | I saw \John | /yesterday. | ≠ c. | I saw 'John \yesterday. |

(29) = (161) in Unit 3: Final conjuncts, disjuncts, viewpoint adjuncts, style indicators, vocatives, quoting clauses, epithets.

Adjuncts of manner are organic parts of sentences, and so receive the tonic when final:

- (30)a. | Let's go \quickly. | b. | He 'read it very \well. |
 c. | He 'drives \normally. | d. | I 'couldn't 'speak to him \frankly. |

ADJECTIVAL WH-OBJECTS (combinations of WH-determiner+N as objects)

(55)a. | What \seeds did you use? | b. | Which \course did you take? |

c. | Whose ad\vice will you accept? |

(56)a. | What did you \do? | b. | Whose ad'vice did you find most \useful? |

OBJECTS WITH PREDICTABLE VERBS AFTER THEM

(57)a. | John has a \duty to perform. | b. | John has a duty to per\form. |

(58)a. | I have a 'point to \emphasize. | b. | I have a \point to make. |

(59)a. | The end of the chapter is reserved for various 'problems to com\puterize. |

b. | The end of the chapter is reserved for various \problems to solve. |

see Bolinger (1972)

GIVEN AND CONTRASTED

(31) | Tom, Dick and Harry 'all got /firsts | but ^VTom | was given the \prize. |

GIVEN AND DENIED (insistence clauses)

(32)A.- | How many \tea-bags do you use? |

B.- | I don't \use tea-bags. |

(33)A.- | Has 'John read 'Slaughterhouse /Five? |

B.- | /No, | John doesn't \read books. |

Tonicity contrasts in grammar

(35)a. | I've 'never \taught myself. | ≠ b. | I've 'never taught my\self. |

(36)a. | \Shoot, John. | ≈ | \Shoot, | /John. | ≠ b. | 'Shoot \John. |

- (37)a. |They 'didn't \come, happily.| ≈ |They 'didn't \come, |,happily.|
 ≠ b. |They 'didn't come \happily.|
- (38)a. |He 'asked \Joe, stupidly.| ≈ |He 'asked \Joe, |,stupidly.|
 ≠ b. |He 'asked Joe \stupidly.|

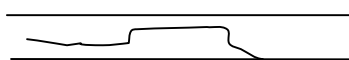
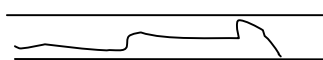
Unit 4: Nuclear tones = Nuclear contours (Halliday's choice of tone)

Read: Tench 1996. Ch.4, sections 4.1., 4.2., 4.3., 4.4..

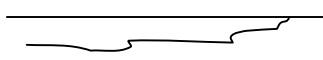
Nuclear contours:

HF, LF, HR, LR, FR, RF, (M = in some analyses: H)

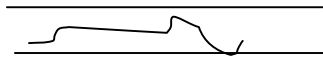
- (1)a. |Are you 'going a \way?| b. |Are you 'going a way?|



- (2)a. |Are you 'going a \way?| b. |Are you 'going a way?|



- (3) |I 'go there \usually.| = simple FR



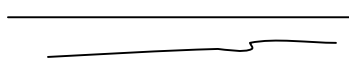
- (4) |But \I didn't fail the e/xam.| = compound (divided) FR



- (5) |He ,got a dis^tinction.|



- (6)a. |When I 'went to -Africa...| b. |When I ,went to -Africa...|



N.B. 1. In the simple FR (3) the syllables after the fall may gradually rise one after the other, in the compound FR (4) they are at the lowest level until the final low rise. In the simple FR the rise ends at a higher pitch than in the compound FR. The difference is sometimes neutralised, as in (501): |I \like ,chocolate.| = |I \like chocolate.|

2. The Mid level (6a, b) is never sentence-final, it's an alternative to a non-sentence-final LR.

Local meanings of nuclear contours:

Falls: **HF, LF:** 'final, complete, definite, separate'

- (10)a. |He 'stayed for three \hours.|

b. |He 'stayed for three \hours.| 'weighty'

c. |He ,stayed for three \hours.| 'protesting'

RF: 'final, complete, definite, separate' + 'impressed'

- (11) (He got a first!) | ^Did he?!| At ^Cambridge, | ^too!! ^Mm!! (12) | ^Clever!!
 or 'final, complete, definite, separate' + 'challenging' = 'negatively impressed'

- (13)a. (They're emptying the dustbins.) | They ^always empty them on Fridays.|

- b. (I couldn't find any adverbs.) | But there are ^lots of them in the text.
 c. (I need a nice long holiday.) | Don't we ^all!

Rises (dependent = non-sentence-final): LR, HR, FR, (M)

On subjects:

- LR:** *formal+non-final*, **HR:** *casual+non-final*, **M:** *non-final*, **FR:** *contrast+non-final*
 (11) | Private ^Venterprise | is always ef^Vficient, | whereas public /ownership | means inefficiency. |

On adverbials:

- LR:** *formal+non-final*, **HR:** *casual+non-final*, **M:** *non-final*, **FR:** *emphatic+non-final*

- (15)a. | Un^Vfortunately, |
 b. | Un_/fortunately, | } their 'best 'player didn't turn \up. |
 c. | Un[/]fortunately, | }
 d. | Un-fortunately, | }
 (16)a. | \Literally, | he banged his head against the \wall. | <REINFORCING>
 b. | Of \course | if you ^Vdo it that way, | it won't \work. |
 c. | Be \sides, | he didn't get a high enough \mark. |
 (17)a. | Pre^Vsumably | he thinks he \can. | <LIMITING>
 b. | ^VUsually | he comes on \Sundays. |
 c. | Acci^Vdentally | he got it \right. |
 (18)a. | \Clearly, | he's not as good as he \thinks he is. |
 b. | ^VClearly, | he's not as good as he \thinks he is. |
 (19)a. | I went to \London | on /Monday. |
 b. | He didn't get a high enough \mark | un_/fortunately. |
 (20)a. | I do it \this way | \always. | b. | He made a \mess of it | de\liberately. |

On coordinated clauses:

- (21)a. | He took the /car, | and drove to \London. |
 b. | He cleaned it -up, | and sold it for two hundred \pounds. |
 (22)a. | She's twenty-eight years \old, | and lives in East \Grinstead. |
 b. | She's twenty-eight years /old, | and thinking of starting a \family. |

On subordinate clauses:

- (23)a. | Because I hadn't had any ^Vaspirins, | I felt a bit \better. |
 b. | I feel a bit \better | when I don't take any /aspirins. |
 c. | I felt a bit ^Vbetter | because I hadn't had any \aspirins. |

Rises (independent = sentence-final)

LR on declaratives: 'uncertainty',

with NO preceding high pitch accent: 'non-committal, grumbling, reserved, cautious'

- (24)a. | It's /not. | b. | He didn't help /me. |
 with a preceding high pitch accent: 'soothing, reassuring, patronizing', except in YNQs, where this is normal ('politely interested') for BrE.
 (25)a. | It 'won't /hurt. | b. | I'll be 'back next /week. | c. | 'All you'll 'feel is 'one little /prick. |
 (26) | 'Can you /help me?!
HR: 'echo or repetition question'

- (27)a. (I'm taking up taxidermy this autumn.) | Taking up /what?|
 b. (She passed her driving test last week.) | She /passed?|
 c. (When are you going to do it?) | When am I going to /do it?|
 d. (Make sure you get there at ten.) | At /ten?|

- (28)a. | /Pardon?| b. | /What?|

But also on *non-echo, non-repetition questions*. BrE: 'casual', AmE: 'normal'

- (29) | Are you /going?|

N.B. There is a growing tendency to use HR for declaratives in Australian English, e.g. |This is /Heather|, cf. P. Warren (2016)

FR --'warning' on declaratives and imperatives:

- (30) a. | You won't /like it.| b. | Be /careful you don't /fall.|

-- on declaratives: often '*reservations, emphatic contrast, contradiction*'

- (31)a. (When will we be seeing you?) | Well, | I could come on /Saturday.|
 b. | I like his /wife, | although I can't stand /him.|
 c. (Is that part of the coast very crowded at weekends?) | Well /Hastings will be.|
 d. (That was quite a good hotel really.) | It wasn't what you'd call /clean.|
 e. (She's twenty-two, isn't she?) | Twenty- /nine.|

Interaction with negatives (a special case of reservations):

- (32)a. | I'm not going to perform /anywhere.|

≠ b. | I'm not going to perform /anywhere.|

- (33)a. | Cheap tickets are not available to /anyone.|

≠ b. | Cheap tickets are not available to /anyone.|

- (34)a. | She didn't /go | because she needed a /holiday.|

≠ b. | She didn't go because she needed a /holiday.|

- (35)a. | /All of them didn't pass the exam.| ≠ b. | /All of them didn't pass the exam.|

- (36)a. | He didn't get /one credit.| ≠ b. | He didn't get /one credit.|

Compound (divided) FR: 'I told you so.' = '*self-justificatory*':

- (37) | I thought she was /married.| (and so she was!) (38) | I knew he would /do it.|
 or '*appealing*':

- (39)a. | Please sit /down.|

b. | I'm /longing to see your new /coat.|

c. | Do you /have to be so /stubborn?|

d. | /Why don't you keep your /mouth shut?|

Unit 5: The functions of intonation

Read: Tench 1996. Ch.1, section 1.4

A) **The informational function:** the organization of information ("What is being said?") Division of the information into pieces, the staging (= ordering) and grading of these pieces (as major, minor, incomplete), signalling new and given information.

B) **The communicative or illocutionary function:** the realization of communicative functions ("Why is it being said?") (1)a. | /Isn't it /hot?| b. | /Isn't it /hot?|

C) **The attitudinal function:** the expression of attitude ("How is it being said?")

(10) H He's \coming |
 M to\ night. ||
 L he /said |

Two further, minor, intonational functions:

F) **Style-indicating function:** the identification of speech styles

G) **Indexical function:** the identification of the speaker

PART II. THE AUTOSEGMENTAL APPROACH TO INTONATION

Unit 6: Pierrehumbert (1980)

Recommended reading: Ladd 2008. Ch. 3. Section 3.1.

While British schools of intonation tend to focus on pitch contours (see Part i), American schools tend to rely on pitch levels, from which the contours are composed. For instance Pike (1945), and American structuralists (like Trager and Smith 1951) described American English intonation by means of 4 (phonemic) pitch levels.

Current research in intonational phonology mainly uses the **autosegmental approach**, launched by J.A. Goldsmith (1976): phonological representations have several autonomous tiers of representation, with events of different kinds taking place on each tier, partly simultaneously.

(1) tonal tier: LHL
 ∨ |
 syllabic tier (axis): fa ri 'farm' (in Margi, a language spoken in Nigeria)

Phonological goal of the autosegmental approach to intonation is to characterise intonation contours in terms of a string of categorically distinct elements. Phonetic goal of this approach: to provide a mapping from phonological elements to continuous acoustic parameters.

The first great work in this approach was **Janet Pierrehumbert** (1980, publ. 1987).

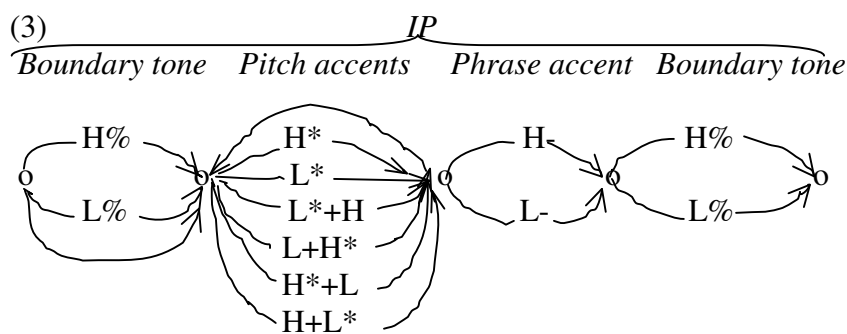
(a) She continued to use a levels analysis (an inheritance of Amer. structuralism) but restricted the number of levels to two: H and L.

(b) She did not recognize a constituent structure within the IP but regarded it as a sequence of optional left boundary tone, one or more pitch accents, one phrase accent, one right boundary tone. *Pitch accents* are intonational prominence markers added to stressed syllables. *Phrase accents* (a.k.a. phrase tones) influence the pitch contour betw. the last pitch accent and the end of the IP. Phrase accents and boundary tones together can be called edge tones.

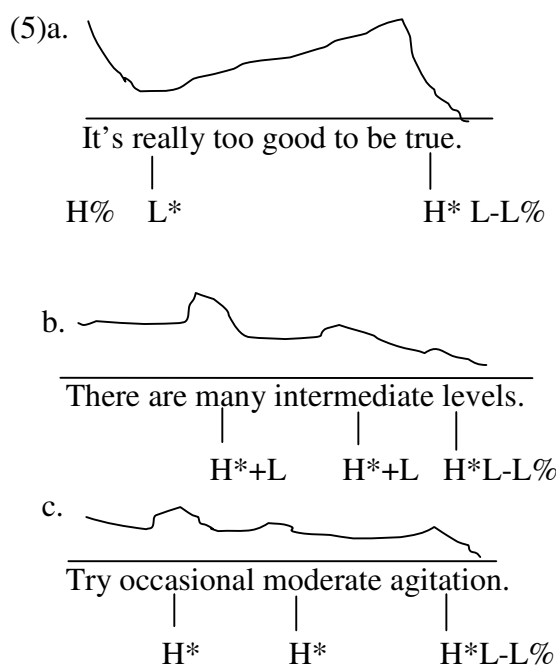
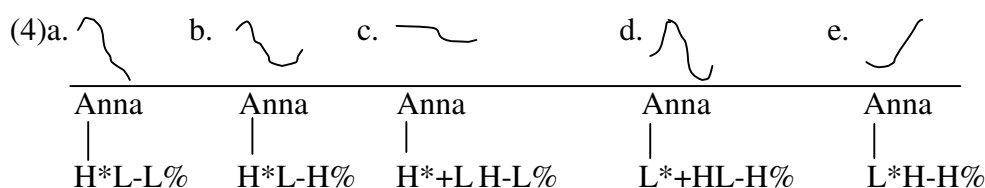
(2) Pitch accents: a. H*, b. L*, c. L*+H, d. L+H*, e. H*+L, f. H+L*,

N. B. The bitonal pitch accents contain a *leading tone* (2d, f) or a *trailing tone* (2c, e) in addition to the starred (or central) tone.

All possible tunes of Engl. can be generated by the following tonal grammar:



- N.B. 1. All combinations are legal.
 2. No difference betw. “prenuclear” and “nuclear” accents.



Problems with Pierrehumbert's model:

--- It allows any random combination of prenuclear and nuclear pitch accents (because each choice of pitch accent is independent), whereas in reality prenuclear (i.e. non-last) pitch accents in an IP tend to be identical.

--- It treats downstep in an extremely abstract way, by assuming that the bitonal pitch accent H*+L triggers downstep in the following starred H* tone and then its L part is deleted, see (5b). Ladd (2008: 97-98) suggests a better solution for downstep, the downstep symbol /!/:

- (6)a. Pierrehumbert:
 There are many intermediate levels.
 | | |
 H*+L H*+L H*L-L%
- b. Ladd:
 There are many intermediate levels.
 | | |
 H* !H* !H*L-L%
- (7)a. Pierrehumbert:
 Anna
 |
 H*+L H-L%
- b. Ladd:
 Anna
 |
 H* !H-L%

Further developments concerning the Phrase accent

In Pierrehumbert's system there is one phrase accent in an IP, between the nuclear pitch accent and the final boundary tone. Thus the phrase accent always appears together with a final boundary tone:

- (8) L-L%, H-H%, L-H%, H-L%

M. E. Beckman & J. B. Pierrehumbert (1986) recognized the possibility of there being a phrase accent between pitch accents and introduced a second kind of intonational unit: the *Intermediate Phrase* (IntermP = a sequence of pitch accents followed by a phrase accent), in addition to the generally recognized *Intonational Phrase* (IP = a sequence of pitch accents followed not only by a phrase accent but also by a boundary tone).

- (9) [IP [IntermP Edinburgh's] [IntermP the capital of Scotland]]
 | L- |
 H* L+H* L- L%

That is to say: there can be several phrase accents in an IP, each at the end of an IntermP.

Unit 7: ToBI

Recommended readings and videos:

Harrington, J. 2006a.

Harrington, J. 2006b.

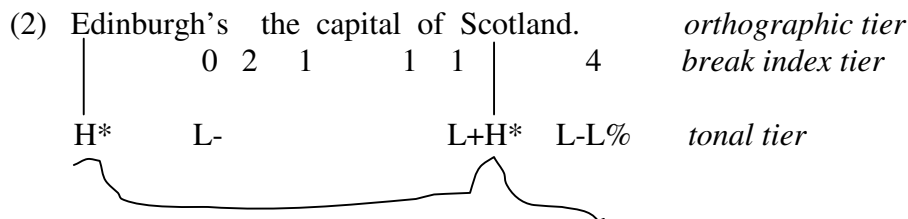
Veilleux, N., S. Shattuck-Hufnagel & A. Brugos 2006.

Cowart, R. Constructing pitch tracks in Praat.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSWra0x8YTE>

Pierrehumbert's theory gave rise to a new kind of intonational notation (transcription), *the ToBI system* ("Tones and Break Indices"), indicating (i) the *tones*, i.e. pitch accents, phrase accents, boundary tones, and (ii) the strength of the *breaks* between the neighbouring words. The 1997 version is available at: http://www.ling.ohio-state.edu/~tobi/ame_tobi/labelling_guide_v3.pdf

- (1) instrumental displays: window 1: waveform
 window 2: spectrogram with F0 curve
 transcription proper: panel 1: tone tier (= tonal tier)
 panel 2: orthographic tier
 panel 3: break index tier
 panel 4: miscellaneous tier



Notes on the Break index tier:

4 is the break index between IPs, 3 between IntermPs, 1 between words that have not grown together within IntermPs, and 0 (= no break) between words that have grown together. The break index 2 is exceptional because it is bifunctional: it is reserved for breaks between IntermPs which are less strong than the expected 3, and for breaks that are stronger than the expected 1 between words within an IntermP.

ToBI as intonational transcription

ToBI is not a universal transcription device for the intonation of languages (like IPA is for the sounds of languages). It was originally invented for English, and has to be developed separately for each language.

There are very useful and easy-to-understand tutorials on ToBI transcription by Jonathan Harrington (2006a, 2006b). These materials present a simplified ToBI model, recognising only 3 pitch accents: H*, L*, L+H*

no initial (left) boundary tone

4 edge tone (= phase accent and right boundary tone) combinations: H-L%, H-H%, L-H%, L-L%

But be careful, a) they use the term “prosodic phrase” for IP,

b) they use the term “boundary tone” for each edge tone combination. Thus, the combinations H-L%, H-H%, L-H%, L-L% are called “boundary tones”.

PART III. PRACTICE AND EXERCISES

How to construct intensity- and pitch curves with Praat

- 1) If you have Praat on your computer, click on its icon, and two windows will appear: “Praat objects” on the left, and “Prat picture” on the right.
- 2) In the Picture window you produce a box (= picture frame) with the mouse (e.g. horizontal 0.5-6, vertical 0.5-1.5), for the sound picture.
- 3) In the Objects window click - *Open*, - *Read from file* (write in the name of the sound file you want to analyse), - *Open*. Now the word *Sound* and the name of the file appears in the first line of the Objects window. Click *View and edit*.
- 4) Now a third window (the sound window) appears called “Sound + the name of the file.” This shows the spectrogram, the F_0 curve and the intensity curve of the sound file, which you can hear whenever you click the tab button. And you can select various parts of it to hear and see (and measure) separately. You select the part you want to analyse. Then click - *File*, then *Extract sound selection (time from 0)*.
- 5) Now in the 2nd line of the Objects window appears: *Sound untitled*. Click - *Draw*, - *Draw*, - *Garnish* (with a tick), and - *OK*.
- 6) Now in the Picture window the picture of the sound wave appears in the box prepared for it.
- 7) In the Picture window, below the sound wave box, produce a second box (e.g. horizontal 0.5-6, vertical 2.5-4) with the mouse, for the intensity curve.
- 8) Go back to the 3rd window (the sound window), and click - *Intensity*, - *Extract intensity contour*.
- 9) Now in the 3rd line of the Objects window appears: *Intensity untitled*. Click - *Draw*, adjust *Intensity range* to 20dB-100dB, - *Garnish* (with a tick), and *OK*.
- 10) Now in the Picture window the picture of the intensity curve appears in the box prepared for it.
- 11) Now in the picture window, below the intensity box, produce a third box (e.g. horizontal 0.5-6, vertical 5-6.5) with the mouse, this time for the pitch (=F₀) curve.
- 12) Go back to the 3rd window, and click - *Pitch*, - *Extract visible pitch contour*.
- 13) Now in the 4th line of the Objects window appears: *Pitch untitled*. Click - *Draw*, - *Draw*, and adjust *Frequency range* to 50-250 Hz, - *Garnish* (with a tick), and - *OK*.
- 14) Now in the Picture window the pitch curve appears in the box prepared for it.
- 15) You can save the three boxes in the Picture window by selecting with the mouse the outer viewpoints of the pictures you want to save, and clicking - *File*, - *Save as Windows metafile*, and in the Objects window you write the name of the file with an extension **.emf** in *Insert*, and click - *Save*.

Exercises

(Exercises marked PR are from Peter Roach 1991. English Phonetics and Phonology. 2nd ed. Cambridge: CUP <K880>)

Tones

Ex. 2. (PR Unit 15) Production of tones (High and low varieties are not distinguished.)

When you hear the number, say the syllable with the tone indicated:

1. /them 2. \why 3. ^well 4. \John
5. /what 6. ^no 7. \here 8. ^you
9. /now 10. \end

Ex. 3. (PR Unit 15) Identification

You will hear each syllable twice. Write an appropriate tone symbol.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-------|------|------|
| one | two | three | four | five |
| six | now | you | more | us |

Ex. 4. (PR Unit 15) Production in context

When you hear the sentence, say the response with the tone indicated:

- | | |
|--|---------|
| Hello, is that 661071? | /Yes |
| Do you know any scientists? | ^Some |
| Keep away from that road! | \Why |
| How many dogs have you got? | ^Two |
| Have you ever heard such a terrible thing? | \No |
| What colour is your car? | /Red |
| Do you want my plate? | ^Please |
| Don't you like it? | ^Yes |
| You haven't seen my watch, have you? | \No |
| What was the weather like? | ^Wet |

Ex. 5. (PR Unit 15)

In the following sentences and bits of dialogue, each underlined syllable must be given an appropriate tone mark. Write a tone mark just in front of each of the syllables.

- a. This train is for Leeds York Darlington and Durham
- b. Can you give me a lift
Possibly Where to
- c. No Certainly not Go a way
- d. Did you know he'd been convicted of drunken driving
No
- e. If I give him money he goes and spends it
If I lend him the bike he loses it
He's completely unreliable

Ex. 6. (PR Unit 16) Identifying the tonic syllable.

1. We could go by bus
2. Of course it's broken
3. The car was where I'd left it
4. How much is the biggest one

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 5. I knew it would go wrong | 6. It was too cold |
| 7. Here it is | 8. That was a loud noise |
| 9. We could go from Manchester | 10. Have you finished |

Ex. 8. (PR Unit 16) Transcribe the intonation of these IPs by using tonetic stress marks. Listen and repeat, trying to copy the intonation exactly; no transcription is given.

What time will they come

A day re turn to London

The North Pole would be warmer

Have you de cided to buy it

I re corded them on cas sette

Ex. 13. (LV)

Identify the internal structure of the following IPs in terms of PH, H, N, and T. Utterance (j) consists of several IPs, so the IP boundaries are essential and cannot be left out. The symbol □ stands for pause.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| a) \Yes | b) \Aren't they? |
| c) 'Dogs are 'men's best \friends | d) A 'dog is a 'man's 'best \friend |
| e) And then they 'left for the \library | f) But 'that's 'quite ri'diculous |
| g) They \are a few | h) In a 'little 'less than an \hour |
| i) In about an \hour | |
| j) and then 'nearer to the ^V front □ on the /left there's a 'bit of \forest 'coming 'down to the \waterside □ and then a 'bit of a /bay □ | |

Ex. 14. (PR Unit 17) When you hear the number, say the item with the tone that is marked.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. \Bill bought it | 5. \Four of them came | 9. \Why do you do it |
| 2. ^Bill bought it | 6. ^Four of them came | 10. ^Why do you do it |
| 3. ^V Bill bought it | 7. ^V Four of them came | 11. ^V Why do you do it |
| 4. ^Bill bought it | 8. ^Four of them came | 12. ^Why do you do it |

Ex. 17. (PR Unit 17) Transcription of IPs.

Each item will be pronounced as one IP, and will be heard three times. You must do the following things:

- Identify the tonic syllable, decide which tone it carries and place the appropriate tone mark before it.
 - Identify the stressed syllables preceding the tonic syllable and mark them high (ˈ) or low (ˌ).
- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Now here's the weather forecast | 2. You didn't say anything about rates |
| 3. A few years ago they were top | 4. No one could say the cinema was dead |
| 5. Is there anything you wouldn't eat | 6. Have you ever con sidered writing |
| 7. That was what he claimed to be | 8. We try to do our shopping in the market |
| 9. But I never go there now | 10. It wouldn't be difficult to find out |

Tonality**Ex. 21.** (PR, Unit 19)

The following sentences are given without punctuation. Underline the appropriate tonic syllable places and mark IP boundaries where you think they are appropriate.

- a. he wrote the letter sadly (*he wrote the letter in a sad way*)
- b. he wrote the letter sadly (*it's regrettable that he wrote the letter*)
- c. four plus six divided by two equals five
- d. four plus six divided by two equals seven
- e. we broke one thing after another fell down
- f. we broke one thing after another that night

Ex. 22. (LV) Work out the meanings (and grammatical differences) of the following:

- a. | He ate some 'soup | some bread and 'butter | and a piece of 'cake |
 b. | We need 'milk | some 'bread | and 'butter |
- 2.a. | They lost against 'Newport of all teams | 'didn't they? |
 b. | They lost against 'Newport of all teams | 'didn't they? |
 c. | They lost against 'Newport of all teams | 'did they? |
 d. | They lost against 'Newport of all teams | 'did they? |
- 3.a. | The man and the woman dressed in 'black | stood 'up |
 b. | The 'man | and the woman dressed in 'black | stood 'up |
 c. | The man and the 'woman | dressed in 'black | stood 'up |
- 4.a. | They sent Joan a waitress from the ho'tel |
 b. | They sent 'Joan | a waitress from the ho'tel |
 c. | They sent 'Joan | a 'waitress | from the ho'tel |
- 5.a. | They called Susan a 'waitress | b. | They called 'Susan | a 'waitress |
- 6.a. | He didn't go because he was 'tired | b. | He didn't 'go | because he was 'tired |
- 7.a. | And then he'll say who's 'coming | b. | And then he'll 'say | who's 'coming |
- 8.a. | They've left the 'others | b. | They've 'left | the ,others |
- 9.a. | John says Amanda is a 'fool | b. | 'John | says A,manda | is a 'fool |
- 10.a. | The boy who couldn't cycle felt 'miserable |
 b. | The 'boy | who couldn't 'cycle | felt 'miserable |
- 11.a. | She's my friend 'Carol | b. | She's my 'friend | 'Carol |
 c. | She's my 'friend Carol | d. | She's my 'friend | ,Carol |

Tonicity

Ex. 23. (LV) Work out the meanings (and grammatical differences) of the following:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1.a. I've never \taught myself | b. I've never taught my\self |
| 2.a. \Shoot John | b. Shoot \John |
| 3.a. They didn't come \happily | b. They didn't \come happily |
| 4.a. This is the girls' \school | b. This is the \girls' school |
| 5.a. I thought it would \rain | b. I \thought it would rain |
| 6.a. I fed her dog \biscuits | b. I fed her \dog biscuits |
| 7.a. This is what I \meant | b. \This is what I meant |
| 8.a. I have instructions to \leave | b. I have in\structions to leave |
| 9.a. We only met Liz to\day | b. We only met \Liz today |

Ex. 24. (LV) Comment on the following:

- 1.a. | The 'Queen said she was 'happy to be in 'Manchester | and then the 'Duke made a \joke |
 b. | The 'Queen said she was 'happy to be in 'Manchester | and then the \Duke made a joke |
- 2.a. | Like most \bachelors | my 'husband likes 'chatty \girls |
 b. ?* | Like \most bachelors | my 'husband likes 'chatty \girls |

Ex. 25. (LV) Underline the contrastive tonic in the following:

- (I want you to finish your lessons.) But I have finished.
- (Why didn't you go to the party?) Well, I did go.
- (Please hurry.) I am hurrying.
- (Will you open the window?) It is open.
- (When are they going to India?) But they are in India.
- (She hates journalists.) Bad luck. I am a journalist.
- (You can only get milk here.) OK, I want milk.
- (Chester is a nice town.) My brother lives in Chester.
- (This is not silver.) It is silver, sir.
- (Thank you, Mr. Black.) Thank you, Mr. White.
- (Bath is a marvellous place.) I know. I studied in Bath.
- (That's a restaurant for lawyers only.) That's all right. We are lawyers.

Ex. 33. (LV) Provide a traditional transcription of the intonation of the following conversation, by using tonetic stress marks. Do it in steps: first identify the pauses in the entire recording, then listen to the individual chunks that are recorded separately. Use a pencil and a rubber.

Tapescript 1: A journalist is interviewing Mr Williams about his job (A)

(From Soars: Headway – Intermediate, Cassette 1)

A: What's your job, Mr Williams?

B: I'm a writer.

A: That's interesting. What sort of thing do you write?

B: Well, uhm articles for newspapers and maga zines eh film re views, you

know, uhm and oc casionally some fiction, poems and short stories.

A: Do you find it a very de manding job?

B: Well. Yes and no. It's very nice to work at home, of course, and have the choice of when to work, but I work long hours at home, usually ten hours or more a day. And it's very lonely some times sitting in front of a typewriter.

A: What're you working on at the moment?

B: Well, actually I'm doing something very different from my usual work, eh, I'm writing a bi ography of Leonard Benson, the jazz musician.

A: So I sup pose you're spending a lot of time to gether.

B: Well, no, in fact he lives in the States. I'm doing a lot of re search, naturally. He's visiting this country at the moment and I have an appointment with him, but we haven't met very often.

A: Well, thank you, Mr Williams. That was very interesting. And good luck with the book.

B: Not at all.

Ex. 34. (LV) Analyse the pitch and intensity curves of the separately recorded chunks of Ex. 33 by using Praat.

Ex. 35. (LV) Provide a ToBI-style transcription for the intonation in Ex. 33, below each line of the conversation repeated below.

Tapescript 1: A journalist is interviewing Mr Williams about his job (B)

A: What's your job, Mr Williams?

B: I'm a writer.

A: That's interesting. What sort of thing do you write?

B: Well, uhm articles for newspapers and magazines eh film reviews, you

know, uhm and occasionally some fiction, poems and short stories.

A: Do you find it a very demanding job?

B: Well. Yes and no. It's very nice to work at home, of course, and have

the choice of to work, but I work long hours at home, usually ten hours

or more a day. And it's very lonely sometimes sitting in front of a

typewriter.

A: What're you working on at the moment?

B: Well, actually I'm doing something very different from my usual work, eh,

I'm writing a biography of Leonard Benson, the jazz musician.

A: So I suppose you're spending a lot of time together.

B: Well, no, in fact he lives in the States. I'm doing a lot of research,

naturally. He's visiting this country at the moment and I have an

appointment with him, but we haven't met very often.

A: Well, thank you, Mr Williams. That was very interesting. And good luck

with the book.

B: Not at all.

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