

ASPECTS OF PROSODIC PHONOLOGY

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Prosodic features

- Segmental vs. suprasegmental (=prosodic) features:
 - Stress
 - Intonation
 - Rhythm

Importance of understanding prosodic features at the interface with other components of the grammar, as well as extragrammatical systems.

Prosodic features (cont.)

- Importance of understanding prosodic features at the interface with other components of the grammar, as well as extragrammatical systems.
- Lexical vs. post-lexical phonology

Stress

- Primary vs. secondary
 - Cf. library, factory / secretary, mercenary
 - proceed, procedure
 - commence, commencement
 - communicate, communication
 - adjudicate, adjudication
 - elaborate, elaboration
 - collaborate, collaboration

Stress (cont.)

- Syllabic weight and stress
- Contrastive stress:
 - Conversion:
 - *import, imports*
 - *export, exports*
 - *record, record*
 - But: *control* (n., v.)

Stress and information structure

A: Who broke the china vase?

*B: **Peter** did / broke the china vase.*

A: What did Peter break (last night)?

*B: He broke **the china vase** (last night).*

*It was **Peter** who broke the china vase.*

*It was **the china vase** that Peter broke last night.*

*It was **last night** that Peter broke the china vase.*

Intonation

- Changes in pitch
- Pitch is determined by frequency of vibration of vocal cords.
- The higher the vibration, the higher the pitch.
- Intonation affects pragmatic meaning at the level of the utterance.
- Intonation patterns and sentences types / speech acts.
- Intonation vs. tone

Tone

- Affects conceptual meaning at the level of the word (Cf. phonemes). All tone languages are intonational as well:
- Chinese:
 - *ma* “mother” (level high tone)
 - *ma* “hemp” (high rising tone)
 - *ma* “horse” (falling rising tone)
 - *ma* “scold” (high falling tone)

Rhythm

- Overall adjustments in stress in connected speech.
- 1.a. *This is a very abstract/complex phenomenon.*
- 1.b. *This phenomenon is really abstract/complex.*
- 2.a. *These books are for all beginning students.*
- 2.b. *These books are for you/ Who are these books for? /
The students I bought these books for.*
- 3.a. *Your suggestion is absolutely ridiculous.*
- 3. b. *A: So, do you agree? B: Absolutely*

Prosodic units

- Syllable
- Foot (trochaic, iambic)
- Phonological word (Cf. grammatical word)
- Phonological phrase
- Intonation group
- Utterance

When the children arrived home from school, they sat down to a quick meal.

If the boss finds out about it, he will fire you right away.

Prosodic units (cont.)

- Cf. syntactic units:
 - Morpheme
 - Word
 - Phrase
 - Clause
 - Sentence

Phonological vs. grammatical word

- The car
- A bird
- In Paris
- For you

Contrastive phonology

- British and American English

Contrastive phonology

- English and Spanish compared
 - Time stress vs. syllable stress
 - Weakening
 - Clitics
 - Minimal word: té, mí, dé...

Conclusions

- Good-bye and thank you!!