Prosodic Analysis and the Syntax-Prosody Interface

University of Oslo

(Preliminary)

Organizers: Ida Larsson & Björn Lundquist

This course will give the participants an introduction to prosodic analysis. It will discuss the prosodic hierarchy and the interface between prosody, syntax and information structure. It will also involve some analysis of empirical data.

The course consists of two lectures/day during three days in October/November 2018. One of the lectures will be a session on Praat.

The course is open for MA students, although they cannot take it for credit.

Requirements for 3 ECTS:
• Do readings before and during the course as assigned by the instructors.
• Active participation in all lectures
• Submit one research question in writing before each lecture

Additional requirements for 5 ECTS:
• Write a 2000-word essay on an assigned topic following the course

Course instructors

Caroline Féry, Goethe University Frankfurt
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PhD course: Prosodic analysis

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31 Oct-2 Nov 2018, Oslo
Location: University Campus, Blindern, P.A. Munchs hus, meeting room 226

Schedule

31 Oct

10.15-12.00	1. Prosodic hierarchy	Féry 2017, Ch. 3, 4; Myrberg & Riad 2015 Submit research question	Myrberg
12.00-13-15	LUNCH		
13.15-15.00	2. Introduction to Praat	"Praat Tutorial for Intonation Studies", + homework, see abstract	Ishihara

1 Nov

10.15-12.00	3. The syntax-prosody interface	Féry 2017, Ch. 4 Ishihara 2015: §3 & §5 Submit research question	Ishihara
12.00-13.15	LUNCH		
13.15-15.00	4. Information structure and intonation	Féry 2017, Ch. 6 Krifka 2008 Submit research question	Féry

2 Nov

10.15-12.00	5. Tone and stress (incl. typology), Scandinavian intonation	Féry 2017: Ch. 8 Bruce 2007, Kristoffersen 2000, Ch. 9 Submit research question	Féry, Myrberg
12.00-13.15	LUNCH		
13.15-15.00	6. Discussion of exercises (to be handed out on the 31 Oct)		Féry, Myrberg, Ishihara
15.00-15.30	COFFEE		

A note on the literature
In the schedule, we give references to the most central literature that will be discussed in each session. In the short abstracts provided below, there are some further suggested (non-obligatory) readings, which will be referred to in each class.

Short abstract for each class

1. *The Prosodic hierarchy (Myrberg)*

This class gives an introduction to the prosodic hierarchy and notions that are important to it, such as prosodic categories, recursion and the strict layer hypothesis (based on the discussions in Féry 2017:Ch. 3-4, cf. also Itô & Mester 2012). Main focus will be on the higher domains in the prosodic hierarchy, which are most relevant for the syntax-prosody mapping: the Prosodic Word, the Prosodic Phrase and the Intonation Phrase. Each domain will be exemplified with data from Stockholm Swedish, based on the discussion in Myrberg & Riad (2015). Some reference will also be made to models on Norwegian and Danish intonation. For reading on these see e.g. Kristoffersen (2000:Ch. 10) and Grønnum (1992).

2. *Introduction to Praat (Ishihara)*

A hands-on tutorial on basic operations of Praat that one needs to know for intonation studies: how to create and edit TextGrid files, how to create and view/edit Pitch files, how to produce pictures, and how to use Praat scripts. An updated version of my tutorial handout (approx. 20 pages) and a sample script will be used. **Homework:** Go through §1–2 of the handout on your own, and do "Exercise 1: Recording". Bring the recorded files with you to the class.

3. *The syntax–prosody interface (Ishihara)*

This class will provide a brief overview of theories of the syntax–prosody mapping. After reviewing major theories, we will discuss differences between Edge-based/Alignment theories and Match theory, especially in relation to recursivity (based on the discussions in Féry 2017:Ch. 4 and Ishihara 2015:§3). Additional readings are Truckenbrodt (1999) and Selkirk (2011). Time permitting, we will also cook at a few cases in which prosodic factors (such as prosodic wellformedness) condition, trigger, block, and facilitate certain syntactic operations (partly based on the discussions in Ishihara 2015:§5).

4. *Information structure and intonation (Féry)*

In this class, the notions of information structure will be introduced first, based on Krifka (2008). This part will not only have a prosodic component, but also a semantic and a syntactic one. In a second step, we will examine the influence of information structure on the prosody in more detail, especially on English, but also in a typological comparison. Most of all, we will see how focus and givenness affect the melodic contour of sentences, without ignoring the role played by topic. The work of Rooth (1992), Büring (2016), as well as the introduction in Féry (2017:Ch. 6) and others will be taken into consideration.

5. *Part one: Tone and stress, typology (Féry)*

This class will give an overview of the way tonal structure is assigned to prosodic constituents. Four groups of languages will be compared: 1) Intonation languages that use tonal contours for the expression of syntax and pragmatics, like English, but that assign no tone to words, only lexical stress; 2) Pitch accent languages that resemble intonation language, except that they do assign tones to words; 3) Tone languages where the melody of sentences is essentially made up by the lexical tones; 4) Phrase languages that have no lexical tones, and no lexical stress and where the F0 contours are entirely made up by phrasal tones. Literature for this class is Féry (2017:Ch. 8), as well as Ladd (2008) and Jun (2005, 2014).

5. *Part two: Scandinavian intonation (Myrberg)*

We look at and listen to intonation contours from different Norwegian and Swedish dialects, in order to better understand the data on which dialectal typologies (and to some extent hypotheses regarding the phonological representation of word accents) are based. The most central literature for this class is Bruce (2007), Riad (2006), and Kristoffersen (2000:Ch. 9).

6. *Discussions of exercises (Féry, Ishihara, Myrberg)*

On the first day of class, we will distribute a small number of spoken sentences in different languages. The participants will be invited to analyse the prosody of these sentences (or some of them) both for their prosodic structure and their tonal constituency. In the last session of the class, we will discuss the analysis of these sentences together.

Course requirements

The course can be taken for 3 or 5 ECTS credits (PhD-students).

Requirements for 3 ECTS:

- Do readings before and during the course as assigned by the instructors.
- Active participation in all lectures.
- To each of the lectures marked "submit research question" in the schedule (p. 1 of this handout), you should bring one written research question, based on the literature and/or your previous knowledge. The question is to be submitted no later than 2 hours *after* each lecture (you are thus allowed to modify your question after the class, based on the in-class discussions). E-mail your question to the teacher responsible for the lecture.

Additional requirements for 5 ECTS:

- Write a 2000-word essay, to be completed after the course. Choose one of the research questions you have submitted and:

  a) write a research overview. You should refer to at least three relevant pieces of literature. No more than one of these should be from the list of course literature (p. 5 of this handout).

  or

  b) make a small data collection and report it in your essay (discuss the size of your data collection with one of the instructors). In your essay, you should refer to at least two pieces of literature, which may be in the list of course literature (p. 5 of this handout).

  or

  c) elaborate your question and develop a detailed design for an experiment that could provide (or get us closer to) an answer to your question. In your essay, you should refer to at least two pieces of literature, which may be in the list of course literature (p. 5 of this handout).

  You are encouraged to approach any of the instructors during the course to discuss your essay.

  Deadline for the essay is December 2nd, 2018. Send your essay in an e-mail to all three instructors.

Literature

Bruce, Gösta. (2007). Components of a prosodic typology of Swedish intonation. In T. Riad & C. Gussenhoven (eds.) *Tones and tunes vol 1. – Typological studies in word and sentence prosody*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. 114–145.

Büring, Daniel. (2016). *Intonation and meaning.* Oxford University Press.

Féry, Caroline. (2017). *Intonation and prosodic structure*. Cambridge University Press.

Grønnum, Nina. (1992). *The groundworks of Danish intonation*. Copenhagen: Museum Tusculanum Press.

Ishihara, Shinichiro. (2015). Syntax–phonology interface. In Haruo Kubozono (ed.), *Handbook of Japanese Phonetics and Phonology*. Mouton de Gruyter, Berlin / Boston, pp. 569–618.

Ito, Junko & Armin Mester (2012). Recursive prosodic phrasing in Japanese. In Toni Borowsky, Shigeto Kawahara, Takahito Shinya & Mariko Sugahara (eds.) *Prosody matters: essays in honor of Elisabeth Selkirk*. London: Equinox. 280–340.

Jun, Sun-Ah. (2005). Prosodic typology: The phonology of intonation and phrasing. Oxford University Press.

Jun, Sun-Ah. (2014). *Prosodic typology II: The phonology of intonation and phrasing*. Oxford University Press.

Krifka, Manfred. (2008). Basic notions of information structure. *Acta Linguistica Hungarica* 55, 243–276.

Kristoffersen, Gjert. (2000). *The phonology of Norwegian*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Ladd, Robert D. (2008). *Intonational phonology* (2nd edn.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Myrberg, Sara & Tomas Riad. (2015). The prosodic hierarchy of Swedish. *Nordic Journal of Linguistics* 38(2), 115–147.

Riad, Tomas. (2006). Scandinavian accent typology. In Åke Viberg (ed.) *Special issue on Swedish. Sprachtypologie und Universalienforschung* (STUF). 36–55.

Rooth, Mats. (1992). A theory of focus interpretation. Natural Language Semantics 1(1). 75–116.

Selkirk, Elisabeth. (2011). The syntax–phonology interface. In J. Goldsmith, J. Riggle, & A. Yu (eds.) *The handbook of phonological theory, 2nd edition*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Truckenbrodt, Hubert. (1999). On the relation between syntactic phrases and phonological phrases. *Linguistic Inquiry* 30: 219–255.