

Intonation

Course description

This course focuses on issues in the phonological description of intonation, and is an updated version of a seminar first offered by Ellen Kaisse in 2001, then co-taught with her in 2008. The theoretical focus of this class is what is generally called the “autosegmental-metrical” theory of intonation and its considerable array of descriptive devices: intonational tunes, boundary tones, pitch accents, phrase accents. What is the motivation for each of these constructs? Are all of these devices needed in every language? While the autosegmental-metrical model of intonation is by no means the only phonological model of intonation, in recent years it has emerged as the dominant theoretical framework, at least in North America.

In this seminar we will mostly assume the validity of phonological transcriptions of intonation. Transcribing intonation is not an easy thing to do, however. Of stress, tone and intonation, intonation is probably the most difficult to describe phonetically, presenting all of the difficulties of tone on a sentence-wide scale. In the early 1990s, the late Peter Ladefoged offered the following advice to my former student Alice Taff: “Don’t sacrifice your life to intonation.” Some in-class time will be devoted to examining the dominant framework for the transcription of intonation, ToBI (Tone and Break Indices), closely allied with the autosegmental-metrical model, and practicing with it.

Prerequisite

LING 451/551 (452/552 preferred) and graduate student status, or permission of instructor.

Textbook

Students should obtain a copy of Ladd 2008. We will read and discuss about half the book. There is one hard copy in Suzzallo and no ebook available to UW.

Course requirements

Most Linguistics students should register for this course for 3 credits. The 2 credit option is for students who have passed their General Exam and are working on their dissertation.

Students registered for 2 or 3 credits must:

- attend and participate in all class meetings (having done that week’s reading before we meet)
- prepare a 15 (apx.) minute presentation of the main points of some article which is not assigned to the class as a whole. This could be a language-particular description of intonation (or stress or tone), or focused on typological or

theoretical issues in intonation. You will be responsible for finding a suitable article, chapter or book. However, I can make some suggestions.

Students registering for 3 credits must also research and write a short (10- to 15-page term paper). The typical paper will probably be a description of intonation in some language you know reasonably well. It could be a proposal for experimental or descriptive research. It might be related to the reading you present.

- By week 7, you should have a rough idea about what your topic is.
- During week 10 you will present what you have been working on.

Your final written work must be turned in by 5 p.m., Friday, March 18, in order to give me enough to read it and turn in final grades on time.

Weekly schedule

Subject to change and customization to student interests! Parenthesized readings are similar in content and more recent, but do not have to be read before class.

<i>week</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>topic</i>	<i>class reading</i>
1	Jan 5	Organization and overview of course. Introduction to intonation.	
2	Jan 12	Ladd's overview of the autosegmental-metrical model.	Ladd ch. 1 (Arvaniti and Fletcher 2020)
3	Jan 19	Fundamental concepts of the AM model	Ladd ch. 2
4	Jan 26	Intonational meaning	Pierrehumbert and Hirschberg 1990 (Westera et al. 2020)
5	Feb 2	Analysis and transcription	Beckman et al. 2005
6	Feb 9	Analysis and transcription, cont.	Ladd ch. 3
7	Feb 16	Intonational typology	Jun 2005 (Kügler and Calhoun 2020)
8	Feb 23	Issues in intonational phonology	Ladd ch. 4
9	Mar 2	Intonation and syntactic structure	Nespor and Vogel 2007 (ch. 7 'The Intonational Phrase')
		Student presentations from the literature.	<i>your choice</i>
10	Mar 9	Term paper presentations	
Finals	Mar 18	Papers due at 5 p.m.	

Administrative details

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The main Department of Linguistics office (414 GUG) is normally open 8 am-5 pm daily, but sometimes closed for short times during the day.

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The Department of Linguistics staff are:

Program Coordinator	Kyung Lim	linguw@uw.edu
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References

- Arvaniti, Amalia and Janet Fletcher. 2020. The Autosegmental-Metrical Theory of Intonational Phonology. *The Oxford Handbook of Language Prosody*, ed. by Carlos Gussenhoven and Aoju Chen. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Beckman, Mary, Julia Hirschberg and Stefanie Shattuck-Hufnagel. 2005. The Original ToBI System and the Evolution of the ToBI Framework. *Prosodic Typology: The Phonology of Intonation and Phrasing*, ed. by Sun-Ah Jun, 9-54. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Jun, Sun-Ah. 2005. Prosodic Typology. *Prosodic Typology: The Phonology of Intonation and Phrasing*, ed. by Sun-Ah Jun, 430-58. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Kügler, Frank and Sasha Calhoun. 2020. Prosodic Encoding of Information Structure: A typological perspective. *The Oxford Handbook of Language Prosody*, ed. by Carlos Gussenhoven and Aoju Chen. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Ladd, D. Robert. 2008. *Intonational Phonology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Nespor, Marina and Irene Vogel. 2007. *Prosodic Phonology*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Pierrehumbert, Janet and Julia Hirschberg. 1990. The meaning of intonational contours in the interpretation of discourse. *Intentions in communication*, ed. by P.R. Cohen, J. Morgan and M.E. Pollack, 271-311. Cambridge MA: MIT Press.
- Westera, Matthijs, Daniel Goodhue and Carlos Gussenhoven. 2020. Meanings of Tones and Tunes. *The Oxford Handbook of Language Prosody*, ed. by Carlos Gussenhoven and Aoju Chen. Oxford: Oxford University Press.