Course syllabus

Intonation
LING 352, Spring 2019, Reed College

Instructor: Sameer ud Dowla Khan
Email: skhan@reed.edu
Phone: ext. 4018 (off-campus: 503-517-4018)
Time & place: Mon/Wed 1:10–2:30PM, in ETC 211
Office hours: Tue 1:30PM–2:30PM, Wed 3:00PM–5:00PM, and by appointment, in Eliot 101C

Introduction

This course is an in-depth study of intonation—the manipulation of pitch, stress, and length to signify sentence-level meaning—in English as well as in several other languages, including Dutch, German, Swedish, Serbo-Croatian, Japanese, Bengali, Korean, and others. This course will have two components, which will overlap considerably. In the laboratory skills component, you will learn how to collect, transcribe, measure, and analyze intonational data in Praat (a program for acoustic analysis and other phonetic work), while in the theoretical component, you will read about and test the claims of various theories of intonation. With these skills, you will conduct independent research over the course of the semester. The course will also cover the interface between intonation and other aspects of the mental grammar, including the realization of morphology, syntactic structure, and focus through prosody.

Requirements and grading breakdown

Prerequisite: Introduction to Linguistic Analysis (LING 211) or Phonetics (LING 320)


Assignments (50%): About once a week, we will focus on lab skills, including recording, editing, and transcribing sound files in intonational analysis. Eight lab assignments testing these practical skills will be given out on Wednesdays and will be due on a later Wednesday. The sixth and eighth lab assignments will be cross-linguistic and more complex, and will be weighted accordingly.

Exams (25%): The midterm exam (15%) will involve transcription skills and theoretical knowledge. During the reading period, a short individual exam (10%) will test your production skills in Mainstream American English (MAE) intonation.

Pilot project (25%): Each student will conduct a pilot project (i.e. small-scale) on an intonational topic of their choice. The project may be purely phonetic or phonological in nature, or may use intonation to investigate aspects of syntax, semantics, or other subfields of linguistics. Students will turn in a final paper and present their findings a conference-style talk during finals week.

Policies

Please note that I generally do not accept late work. I am willing to offer partial credit to students who have shown sincere effort and have an extenuating excuse, although this will be the exception rather than the rule.

I have zero tolerance for plagiarism. Each student must abide by the Reed Honor Principle. While students are very much encouraged to work with one another, each student’s submitted work must be his/her own.

If you have a documented disability and will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Disability Support Services at (503) 517-7921 or disability-services@reed.edu as soon as possible.
# Class schedule

L: lab assignment due, R: reading due, P: pilot project update due


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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>In class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>28 Jan</td>
<td>What is intonation?</td>
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|      | Wed | 30 Jan | Crash course in acoustic phonetics  
Lab: Segmenting, editing, annotating |
| 2    | Mon | 4 Feb | Prominence, simple pitch accents  
R: Ladd §2; B93 §1; BA97 §1 |
|      | TBD | TBD | Understanding the pitch contour  
Lab: Simple PAs, pitch manipulation  
L: Segmenting, editing, annotating |
| 3    | Mon | 11 Feb | Pilot project introduction  
Boundary tones, tone:meaning mapping  
R: PH90 §4–8, T12 §1–2 |
|      | Wed | 13 Feb | Rising PAs, meanings of downstep  
Lab: Contour pitch accents, downstep  
R: BHR18  
L: Simple pitch accents |
| 4    | Mon | 18 Feb | Focus, nuclear stress placement  
R: Ladd §6, 7; T06 |
|      | Wed | 20 Feb | Lab: Complex downstep, recording  
R: Ladd §4.2  
P: Proposals (Fri) |
| 5    | Mon | 25 Feb | Prosodic phrasing, phrase accents  
R: Ladd §8.1–8.2; B93 §2–6; WSHOP92 (opt.) |
|      | Wed | 27 Feb | Lab: Phrasing, drawing contours, MAE_ToBI  
R: Ladd §3.1; Jun §2.1–2.4 |
| 6    | Mon | 4 Mar | Pilot project proposal presentations  
Rising and plateau boundaries  
P: Pilot project proposal presentations  
R: BT18 |
|      | Wed | 6 Mar | Pre-AM models  
L: Phrasing, drawing contours  
R: Ladd §3.2 |
| 7    | Mon | 11 Mar | Midterm: MAE_ToBI transcription, theory  
P: Proposal feedback |
|      | Wed | 13 Mar | British varieties of English, Lab: IVIE  
R: GKC05 |
| 8    | Mon | 18 Mar | German, Lab: GTToBI  
R: GBB05 (Jun §3) |
|      | Wed | 20 Mar | Dutch, Lab: ToDI  
R: G05 (Jun §5) |
| Break | Mon | 25 Mar | NO CLASS: Spring Break |
|      | Wed | 27 Mar | |
| 9    | Mon | 1 Apr | Review of West Germanic lgs  
Swedish: stressed lexical pitch accent  
R: Ladd §4.3; M10 §2, 8 |
|      | Wed | 3 Apr | Lab: Swedish  
L: West Germanic languages |
| 10   | Mon | 8 Apr | Japanese: unstressed lexical PA  
R: V05 (Jun §7) |
|      | Wed | 10 Apr | Japanese: regional varieties, Lab: J_ToBI  
L: Swedish |
| 11   | Mon | 15 Apr | Bengali: weak accent, tonal interaction  
R: K14 §4.1–4.3.3 (Jun §4.1–4.3.3)  
P: Updates (Fri) |
|      | Wed | 17 Apr | Bengali: focus prosody, Lab: B-ToBI  
R: K14 §4.3.4–4.5 (Jun §4.3.4–4.5) |
| 12   | Mon | 22 Apr | Korean: no accent, segment interaction  
R: J05a (Jun §8) |
|      | Wed | 24 Apr | Lab: K-ToBI  
R: J05b (Jun §16) |
| 13   | Mon | 29 Apr | Review of AP languages  
R: J05b (Jun §16) |
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Evaluations Practice: English production</td>
<td>L: Accentual phrase languages</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Typology wrap-up</td>
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<td>Tue</td>
<td>Pilot project final presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Final exam: MAE_ToBI production (individual, 12-2pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Pilot project papers due 3pm</td>
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