

SUPRASEGMENTAL PHONEMES



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Types of Phoneme



Phoneme

Segmental

Suprasegmental

Segmental Phoneme



- Is a phoneme which can be segmented .
- Example :
- Beak “bi:k” can be segmented into /b/, /i:/, /k/.
So, it has three segmental phonemes

Suprasegmental Phoneme



- Is a phoneme which can't be segmented or separated because it may change the meaning. It equips the segmental phonemes.
- Vowels and consonants can be thought of as the segments of which speech is composed. Together they form the syllables, which go to make up utterances. Related to the syllables, there are other features known as **suprasegmentals**.
- In other words, **suprasegmental** features are the aspects of speech that involve more than single consonants or vowels.

Suprasegmental Features



- These features include:
- Intonation
- Stress
- Juncture
- Tempo
- Pitch
- Nasalization
- Voice
- Clusters
- Tone

Intonation



- is the sound pattern of phrases and sentences produced by pitch variation in the voice.
- is variation of spoken pitch that is not used to distinguish words; instead it is used for a range of functions **such as**
- indicating the attitudes and emotions of the speaker,
- signaling the difference between statements and questions,
- between different types of questions,
- focusing attention on important elements of the spoken message

Types of intonation



- *Rising Intonation* means the pitch of the voice increases over time [↗];
- *Falling Intonation* means that the pitch decreases with time [↘];
- *Dipping Intonation* falls and then rises [↘↗];
- *Peaking Intonation* rises and then falls [↗↘].

Rising Intonation



This intonation or tone conveys an impression that something more is following.

Example: | I came to her house |
(but she was not at home)

Falling Intonation



The falling tone gives an impression of finality. No more sentence to be said.

Example :

- | That is all my speech |

Dipping Intonation



This tone shows limited agreement,
response , uncertainty, or doubt

Example : | I am not sure |

Peaking Intonation



This tone is used to convey strong feelings of approval, disapproval or surprise.

Example : |What the hell? |

Intonation Patterns



☐ Fall

☐ Rise

☐ Fall-Rise

☐ Rise-Fall

☐ Level

Transcription of intonation



- /rise
- \fall
- /\rise-fall
- \fall-rise
- rise-fall-rise

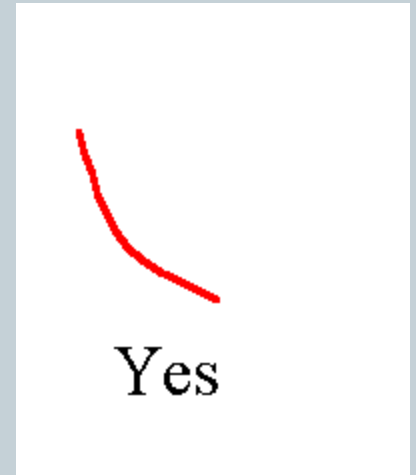


Fall: neutral statement, conclusion

E.g. Have you seen Ann?

Yes.

(Falling intonation indicates ‘I have answered your question and do not intend to add anything else’)

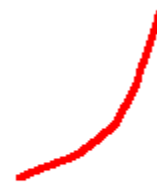


Rise: questioning, doubt, desire to continue conversation

E.g. Have you seen Ann lately?

Yes...

(Rising intonation indicates 'I want to continue the conversation, I am curious')



Yes



Rise-Fall: emphatic statement, irritation, command

☐ Do I really have to clean my
room?

☐ Yes!



Yes

Fall-Rise: surprise

E.g. Ann and Peter were
on good terms at the
party.

Oh yes?



Yes



Level: boredom, lack of interest

Can you remember Peter Jackson?

The other day in the office I invited him for dinner, he'll be coming tomorrow.

—

Yes

Yes.

Functions of Intonation



- ATTITUDINAL FUNCTION : Expresses our feeling, attitudes, emotions .
- ACCENTUAL FUNCTIONS : Intonation has accentual function, it implies that the placement of stress is somewhat determined by intonation.
- GRAMMATICAL FUNCTIONS : The listener is better able to recognize the grammar and syntax structure of what is being said by using the information contained in the intonation.
- THE DISCOURSE FUNCTIONS OF INTONATION : Intonation can indicate when the speaker is indicating some sort of contrast or link with material in another tone unit and kind of response is being expected from him.



- **attitudinal** function (for expressing emotions and attitudes)
- example: a fall from a high pitch on the 'mor' syllable of "good morning" suggests more excitement than a fall from a low pitch
- **grammatical** function (to identify grammatical structure)
- example: it is claimed that in English a falling pitch movement is associated with statements, but a rising pitch turns a statement into a [yes–no question](#), as in *He's going ↗home?*. This use of intonation is more typical of American English than of British.
- **focusing** (to show what information in the utterance is new and what is already known)
- example: in English *I saw a ↘man in the garden* answers "Whom did you see?" or "What happened?", while *I ↘saw a man in the garden* answers "Did you hear a man in the garden?"
- discourse function (to show how clauses and sentences go together in spoken discourse)
- example: subordinate clauses often have lower pitch, faster tempo and narrower pitch range than their main clause, as in the case of the material in parentheses in "The Red Planet (as it's known) is fourth from the sun"

Intonation can Help Communication



- 1. Intonation enables us to express emotions and attitudes as we speak:
 - the attitudinal function of intonation.
- 2. Intonation helps to produce the effect of prominence on stressed syllables:
 - the accentual function of intonation.
- 3. Intonation helps to recognize the grammar and syntactic structure of the utterance:
 - the grammatical function of intonation.
- 4. Intonation conveys the given-new information, or provides information for turn-taking:
 - the discourse function of intonation.

Tone



- Tone is the overall behavior of pitch.
- Pitch is frequency of vibration of vocal cords.

Tone unit:

- *[A tone unit] is a stretch of speech uttered under a single coherent intonation contour. It tends to be marked by cues such as a pause and a shift upward in overall pitch level at its beginning, and a lengthening of its final syllable. DuBois et al (1992)*
- Usually tone unit is always composed of more than one syllable.

STRUCTURE OF THE TONE UNIT



- The structure of the tone unit is as follows. The tonic syllable is obligatory but all other parts are optional.
- (PH) (H) TS (T) (pre-head) (head) tonic syllable (tail) tonic syllable: 'carries' the tone. Is obligatory
- head: all stressed syllable up to (but not including) tonic syllable
- pre-head: any unstressed syllables before the head
- tail: any unstressed syllables that follow the tonic

Examples of Tone Unit



- In the first example, the tone unit is a single syllable 'those'. This is the tonic syllable and in this case has been given a falling intonation denoted by \
 1. | \those |
 2. | 'give me \those |
 3. | in a 'little 'less than an \hour |
 4. | and then 'I said my \father was here |
- In the second example, the tonic syllable is preceded by a head 'give me'. 'Give' is stressed so is the start of the head. In the third example, the tonic is 'hour', the head is 'little less than an' and the pre-head is 'in a'. Note the pre-head does not contain any stressed syllables. In example 4, the tonic 'father' is followed by a tail 'was here'.

The division of a sentence into tone groups can affect the meaning in some cases.

- Do you take sugar?
 - / I don't / no /
Meaning: I don't, no.
 - / I don't no/
Meaning: I don't know.
- The prince said the princess had been unfaithful.
 - / The prince said / the princess had been unfaithful./
Meaning: The prince said (that) the princess had been unfaithful.
 - / The prince / said the princess / had been unfaithful./
Meaning: "The prince," said the princess, "had been unfaithful."

TONE CHANGE



- Every tone unit has a single intonation contour. In other words, the listener will perceive a major change in tone (pitch of voice) somewhere within the tone unit. This change of tone occurs on the tonic syllable and thus we say that the 'tonic carries the tone'. However, if there is a tail, then the change in the tone may continue over the tail.
- A speaker can change the tonic syllable to emphasize different words in the unit. In the following examples the change in tone occurs on different syllables within the tone unit and thus the listener perceives a different emphasis on each one.
- | and then I \said my father was here | | and then I said my \father was here | | and then I said my father was \here |

Tonal Languages



- In tonal languages -- such as Mandarin, Cantonese, Thai, Vietnamese, the way the voice goes up and down during the production of a vowel is in the word. In such languages, an "upward a" and a "downward a" (different because of the tones) are just as distinct as p and b (different because of voicing). If you change the tone, the meaning also changes, even if all the other sounds are exactly the same.
- In contrast, the English word "change" can be said with a downward or upward pitch and this would not affect the meaning of the word or point to a different word. English belongs to a different category of languages. Instead, it assigns stress to one syllable of every word. Changing the stress can point to a different word (pérfect, perfèct), although usually, this also leads to changes in the vowels.

Tone vs. Intonation



- Tone is shown or heard in how something is being said. It is more like an attitude rather than being a voice pattern. It is somebody's general sound may he sound happy, upset, excited or angry among other moods. Emotion has a great deal of influence on tone. By using different tones, the words in a sentence can have other meanings aside from the real original meaning of those words.
- Intonation, when a person asks a **question**, the intonation is usually high at the end of the question to mark the asking of that question.
- In giving statements one might say a **positive statement** using a higher intonation like in how you congratulate someone for a job well done.
- For **negative sentences** that bear messages that are not so good to the receiver, the intonation used by the speaker is usually low or falling.
- This can best be exemplified when somebody gives you his or her condolences for a relative of yours who recently died.

Thank You



MOST OF YOU HAVE DONE A
VERY GREAT JOB.



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