

Prosodic Analysis Revisited: the Interplay of Prosodies Resulting in Pitch Variation in Different Languages

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Abstract

The ultimate aim of tone and intonation modeling across languages is to create a model which can decompose and recompose F0 contours in languages of the world. The concepts of polysystemic approach and contextualization of Prosodic Analysis Theory proposed by Firth (1948) and his disciples (1948-1961) give thoughts to the modeling of tones, word accents, sentence prominence, and sentence tunes or intonation. The Fujisaki model covers both the local F0 contour and the global F0 contour in the frequency domain as well as the temporal domain quite nicely. The model helps researchers to cope with variation in language specific characteristics. Especially in some languages, prosodies of the phonematic units play an important role in the variation of F0 resulting in minute F0 perturbation. This minute perturbation is very sensitive to the auditory pitch perception. This paper reviews prosodic characteristics of languages with specific prosodic features that are difficult to decompose and recompose and thus relates to Mixdorff's paper on Quantitative Tone and Intonation Modeling across Languages.