Frank Kügler - University of Cologne

Intonation in tone languages

In this talk I will focus on the issue of how much and which kind of intonation is found in a tone language. Phonological tone has F0 as its phonetic correlate to manifest lexical and/or grammatical distinctions in a tone language. F0, among duration and intensity, is also the most important correlate of intonation. So the general question is how much F0 is 'left over' in a tone language to signal pragmatic meaning usually expressed by intonation in a non-tone language. I will discuss the prosodic expression of focus and the prosodic expression of sentence mode as two core areas of pragmatic meaning conveyed by intonation.

Frank Kügler holds currently a Heisenberg research fellowship from the German Research Foundation (DFG). He is affiliated with the Phonetics Institute at Cologne University, Germany. He received his Ph.D. degree from Potsdam University, Germany, in 2005. He then continued at Potsdam University as a postdoc and assistant professor. In 2017, he replaced the chair of phonology at Goethe University of Frankfurt, Germany.

His research is primarily on prosody, studying tone and intonation from a cross-linguistic and typological perspective. Among others he investigates different linguistic factors such as syntax and information structure that influence the tonal realization and the phonological representation of tones in tone languages and non-tone (intonation) languages. He worked on typologically diverse languages such as German, Czech, Swedish, Hindi, Yucatec Maya, Mandarin Chinese, Akan, and Tswana.