

Invited talk: Prosody and information structure in ‘phrase languages’
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In my talk, I will compare how several ‘phrase languages’ use prosody to express focus and givenness. Phrase languages is a new intonational category, in addition to the standard categories of intonation languages, pitch accent languages and tone languages (Ladd 2008, Gussenhoven 2004, Jun 2005, 20014, Hyman 2006). It includes languages that do not have any prosodic property at the level of the word, like ‘stress’, ‘tone’ or ‘accent’, or only weakly implemented stress correlates, and that instead primarily use phrasal and/or boundary tones as their tonal primitives. Very different languages can be characterized in this way: French (Welby 2006), Georgian (Skopeteas et al. 2009), Korean (Jun 1993, 2005), Berber (Dell & Elmedlaoui 2008, Gordon & Nafi 2012), Hindi (Féry et al to appear) as well as languages with (primarily) fixed lexical stress like Finnish (Suomi, Toivanen & Ylitalo 2003, Arnhold 2013) and Turkish (Kamali 2011, Güneş 2015). I will address the question of the strategies that these languages use for the expression of information structure: Do the phrasal tones of phrase languages have the same function (prominence) as pitch accents have in other languages as is often claimed for French and Hindi? What exactly do these languages have in common in their tonal structure? Do phrase languages form a coherent intonational category or do the phrasal tones vary in form and function? And do the phrasal tones of the phrase languages differ from those of the other intonational categories?

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