

L712: Phonology of Tone

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Office: Memorial Hall 217
Office hours: MW 5:15 – 6:00 & by appt.

Lecture: MW 4:00 – 5:15, Sycamore 006
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Course description

The study of tone has played an important role in several developments in generative linguistics. Tonal patterns of African languages inspired the development of the theory of Autosegmental Phonology and have often been brought to bear, along with tone sandhi data in East Asian languages, in classic studies of the phonology-syntax interface. In this seminar, we will investigate several aspects of the phonology of tone, with the precise topics to be determined by student and instructor interest. The majority of the world's languages are tonal, and there are a number of important studies of tone in African and Asian languages and, to a lesser extent, in Native American and European languages. Potential discussion topics include the various functions of tone (lexical, grammatical, etc.); typological differences among tonal systems; phonological, morphological, and syntactic influences on tone; issues in the representation of tone (autosegmental representations; tone features, privative features and underspecification, the tone-bearing unit, contour tone units, interactions of tone and segmental features); tone sandhi; aspects of the phonetics of tone realization (the interaction of tone and intonation, the timing of tonal gestures, etc.); tone vs. stress vs. pitch accent; and tonal analysis within rule-based vs. constraint-based theories.

Requirements

Students taking the course for credit will be responsible for completing the readings, class participation, leading two or three class discussions (depending on enrollment), and a term paper. Students auditing the course are asked to lead one or two class discussions, besides regular attendance and active participation. You are encouraged to meet with me at least twice during the semester—in the middle of the term to confirm your project idea and toward the end of the term with a first draft / handout of the final paper. I am also happy to meet with you beyond those two recommended meetings.

Preliminary schedule

Week, <i>Topic</i> , and Readings	Monday	Wednesday
1 <i>Introduction</i>	09/01 No class – Labor Day	09/03
2 <i>Introduction (ctd.)</i> Odden 2005 (Ch.10), Yip 2007, Yip 2002 (Ch.1–5)	09/08	09/10
3 <i>Introduction (ctd.)</i> Readings ctd. from week 2	09/15	09/17
4 <i>Typology</i> Hyman 2007a, 2007b	09/22	09/24
5 <i>African languages</i> Odden 1995, Yip 2002 (Ch.6)	09/29	10/01
6 <i>Asian languages</i> Yip 1995, Yip 2002 (Ch.7), Hyman 2007b	10/06	10/08

7 <i>Bantu</i> Nurse & Phillipson 2003 (Ch.1), Kisseberth & Odden 2003, Hyman 2001, Hyman & Ngunga 1994	10/13	10/15
8 <i>Bantu (ctd.)</i> Goldsmith 1987, Odden 1989, Hyman 1999	10/20	10/22
9 <i>Accent</i> Yip 2002 (Ch.9) Hyman 1988, Odden 1999	10/27	10/29
10 <i>The Americas</i> Yip 2002 (Ch.8), Daly & Hyman 2007, Bickmore & Broadwell 1998	11/03	11/05
11 <i>TBD</i>	11/10	11/12
12 <i>TBD</i>	11/17	11/19
13 <i>TBD</i>	11/24	11/26 No class – Thanksgiving recess
14 <i>TBD</i>	12/01	12/03
15 Final paper presentations	12/08	12/10
		12/17 (7:00 pm) Final papers due

References

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